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THE

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PROCEEDINGS.

Official Report.

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GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

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ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

A

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Ahmed, Mr. M. [Faridpur South (Muhammadan).]

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B

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C

Carey, Mr. W. L. (Indian Mining Association.)
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Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath. [Dinajpur (Non-Muhammadan).]
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D

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Dutta, Babu Annada Charan. [Chittagong (Non-Muhammadan).]
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan. [Tippera (Non-Muhammadan).]

E

Emerson, Mr. T. (Nominated Official.)

F

Faroqui, Mr. K. G. M. [Tippera (Muhammadan).]
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell. [Presidency and Burdwan (European).]
French, Mr. F. C. (Nominated Official.)

G

Ghatak, Rai Bahadur Nilmani. [Malda (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ghose, Mr. D. C. [24-Parganas Rural South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder. (Calcutta University.)
Goode, Mr. S. W. (Nominated Official.)

H

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Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul. [Tippera (Muhammadan).]
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Hussain, Maulvi Md. Madassur. [Burdwan Division North (Muhammadan).]

J

Janah, Babu Sarat Chandra. [Midnapore South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Jones, Mr. J. A. [Presidency and Burdwan (European).]

K

Karim, Maulvi Fazlal. [Bakarganj, South (Muhammadan).]
Khaitan, Babu Devi Prosad. (Nominated Non-official.)
Khan, Babu Debendra Lal. [Midnapore North (Non-Muhammadan).]
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Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin. [Mymensingh East (Muhammadan).]
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman. [Calcutta North (Muhammadan).]
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Md. Ershad Ali. [Rajshahi North (Muhammadan).]

L

Law, Raja Reshee Case. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)
Leslie, Mr. W. L. (Calcutta Trades Association.)

M

Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble. (Member, Executive Council.)
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Mallik, Babu Surendra Nath. [Calcutta South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Marr, Mr. A. (Nominated Official.)
McAlpin, Mr. M. C. (Nominated Official.)
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Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. (Minister, Presidency Landholders.)
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Muir, Mr. R. H. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Mukerji, Mr. S. C. (Nominated Official.)
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah Rural (Non-Muhammadan).]
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhon. [Hooghly Municipalities (Non-Muhammadan).]
Mukherji, Professor S. C. (Nominated Non-official—The Indian Christian Community.)
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra. [Midnapore South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary. [Bakarganj South (Non-Muhammadan).]

N

Nakey, Mirza Muhammad Ali [24-Parganas Municipal South (Muhammadan).]
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra. [24-Parganas Rural Central (Non-Muhammadan).]

P

Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar. [Mymensingh West (Muhammadan).]
Philip, Mr. J. Y. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Poddar, Babu Keshoram. (Bengal Marwari Association.)

R

Raheem, Mr. Abdur. (Nominated Non-official.)
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-. (Member, Executive Council.)
Raikat, Mr. Prasanna Deb. [Jalpaiguri (Non-Muhammadan).]
Rauf, Maulvi Shah Abdur. [Rangpur West (Muhammadan).]
Ray, Babu Bhabendra Chandra. [Jessore North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath. [Deputy-President, 24-Parganas Municipal South (Non-Muhammadan).]
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Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal. (Chittagong Landholders.)

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Roy, Mr. J. N. (Nominated Official.)
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Roy, Raja Maniloll Singh. [Burdwan (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy Chaudhuri, Babu Sailaja Nath. [Khulna (Non-Muhammadan).]

S

Salam, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Abdus. [Jessore North (Muhammadan).]
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra. [Rangpur (Non-Muhammadan).]
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath. [Bankura West (Non-Muhammadan).]
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Suhrawardy, Dr. A. [Dacca West Rural (Muhammadan).]
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah Municipal (Muhammadan).]
Suhrawardy, Mr. Huseyn Shaheed. [Burdwan Division South (Muhammadan).]

T

Travers, Mr. W. L. [Rajshahi (European).]

V

Villiers, Mr. F. E. E. [Presidency and Burdwan (European).]

THE *BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(Official Report of the Eleventh Session.)

VOLUME XI—No. 5.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 14th March, 1923, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President in the Chair, the four Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council, the three Hon'ble Ministers, and 63 nominated and elected members.

Starred Questions

(to which oral answers were given).

Supply of services by the Electric Supply Corporation.

***LXX. Babu NALINI NATH ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce be pleased to state whether it is the rule that according to the Electricity Act and the contract with the Government the Electric Supply Corporation is to supply services within 21 days of the application by the parties?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the last three years—

(*i*) how many applications for services were made by the parties;

(*ii*) how many services were given by the Electric Supply Corporation; and

(*iii*) whether the Electric Supply Corporation strictly followed the rules in such cases?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE (the Hon'ble Mr. J. Donald): (*a*) Under clause VI(*1*) of the Schedule to the Electricity Act, the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation are required to comply with requisitions for supply within one month, unless prevented from doing so by cyclones, floods, storms, or other

occurrences beyond their control. They are not required to supply services within 21 days of the application by the parties.

(*b*) (*i*) to (*iii*) Government have no information.

Registration of documents in the zamindari cutchery of Mr. Caspersz.

***LXXI. Maulvi AZAHARUDDIN AHMED:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) aware that there is a rent-free zamindari of Mr. Caspersz within the jurisdiction of the Matbaria Sub-Registrar's office in the district of Bakarganj?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member also aware that the tenants of the said zamindari have for a long time had to register their documents in the private cutchery of the said zamindar on payment of fees standardized by him, and that if they go to the registration office for the purpose they are heavily fined?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, what steps are the Government taking in the matter?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE (LAND REVENUE) (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*c*) Under one of the terms of the kabuliyat the tenants are bound to get all their documents registered at the private cutchery of the zamindar. A copy of a translation of the relevant extract from the kabuliyat is laid on the table. It is reported that a fine is not levied if documents are registered at the ordinary registration office, but is levied if they are not registered at the private cutchery. As to the fees levied accounts vary. Copying fees have to be paid, but a further inquiry is being made into the whole question.

Copy of a translation of the relevant extract from the kabuliyat relating to registration of documents in zamindar's cutchery referred to in the reply to clauses (b) and (c) of starred question No. LXXI.

* * * * * *

If it be necessary to sell, transfer or lease out any portion or the whole of the land mentioned in this kabuliyat it will be done after first taking your consent and having it registered in your sherista; otherwise the transaction will be considered null and void everywhere.

In-door patients in Calcutta hospitals.

***LXXII. Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be

pleased to state the amount of likely reduction in expenditure per month on account of the proposed reduction in the number of in-door patients in the hospitals of Calcutta?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): There will be no reduction in expenditure since there is no decrease in the number of in-door patients, as the following statement shows:—

	Number of In-patients.	
	January, 1923.	January, 1922.
Campbell Hospital ...	775	721
Medical College Hospital ..	1,428	1,449
Presidency General Hospital .	5,771	5,919
Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital ...	144	231

Defalcation of court-fee stamps from Bakarganj Treasury.

***LXXIII. Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur:** With reference to the reply given to starred question No. XVIII on the 26th January, 1923, will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether he is aware that a certificate proceeding is still pending for the recovery of the amount defalcated from the Bakarganj Treasury against the heirs of a particular ministerial officer of the Treasury?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. J. Donald): Yes.

Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur: Is this continuance of the proceeding in conformity with the results of the inquiry which, I understand, has been held in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: I understand that the case about this certificate is now receiving the consideration of the committee.

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Medical arrangements at char Kukri Mukri in Bakarganj.

425. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state—

(*i*) the qualifications of the doctor with whom some khas mahal lands in the Sundarbans in the district of Bakarganj were settled for the treatment of the settlers;

(*ii*) the conditions on which the lands were settled with him;

(*iii*) whether advertisements were issued for applications from doctors;

(*iv*) if not, what are the reasons for not advertising for a qualified doctor;

(*v*) whether the gentleman selected applied to Government for funds to purchase medicines, etc., to open a dispensary at char Kukri Mukri;

(*vi*) if so, why has he not been provided with funds as yet; and

(*vii*) whether the Government are contemplating providing funds for a dispensary there?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: (*i*) and (*ii*) The medical practitioner in question has passed the Compoundership Examination of the Dacca Medical School and has worked for some time as a Medical Subordinate in the Out-Patient Department of the Military Station Hospital at Moshi (Occupied Territory—East Africa). No land has yet been settled with him, but an *amalnama* has been granted as an intending colonist.

(*iii*) The answer is in the negative.

(*iv*) The time for starting a dispensary has not yet arrived.

(*v*) The answer is in the negative.

(*vi*) The question does not arise.

(*vii*) The member is referred to answer (*iv*) above and to the answer given to his question No. 228(*b*) at the meeting of the 9th March, 1922.

Enforcement of Juvenile Smoking Act.

426. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) what action is being taken with regard to the Juvenile Smoking Act passed by the Bengal Legislative Council in 1919; and

(*ii*) whether he is aware that many small school children have not as yet given up their habit of smoking?

(*b*) Are the Government proposing to take early and effective steps to give effect to the Act passed?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) (*i*) The Act has been extended to Calcutta, Chittagong, and Berhampore.

(*ii*) Government have no information.

(*b*) Government are not prepared to extend the Act to other municipal towns except on the application of the local authorities concerned. Where the Act is in operation, it is open to parents and guardians (section 5, Act II of 1919) to secure the initiation of proceedings.

Infant mortality in Pabna.

427. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the statistics of infant mortality during the last ten years and the number of boys and girls up to the age of five who died during the same period in the district of Pabna?

(*b*) What steps have been or are being taken by the Government to mitigate the mortality?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that there is a dearth of midwives in the district of Pabna?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, what steps have been or are being taken either by the Government or by the local bodies in this direction?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) A reference is invited to Form IV, Annual Report on Public Health.

(*c*) Government have no information.

(*b*) and (*d*) A small provision was made in the estimates for subsidising *dhai* training classes and district boards were invited to apply for a grant for this purpose. Ten boards have done so and grants were sanctioned to them in February, 1923. No application was received from Pabna.

Child welfare work.

428. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state what practical steps have been taken to arrest the increasing rate of infant mortality in Bengal?

(*b*) Have child welfare centres been opened by the Corporation of Calcutta or any other municipality or district board in Bengal?

(*c*) If any such centre or centres have been opened, will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state their number and method of work?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the Corporation of Madras have opened a number of child welfare centres and have placed them under a duly qualified superintendent?

(*e*). Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the Government of Madras have, of their own initiative, formulated and sanctioned a scheme for child welfare work, and that a school for the training of health workers in the city of Madras has been opened in co-operation with the Madras child welfare association?

(*f*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister also aware that the work of the child welfare centres established by the Corporation of Madras has been such that the Government of Madras have ordered that the students in the newly opened school for the training of health workers are to receive their practical training in the child welfare centres and at the hands of the superintendent in charge of these centres?

(*g*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of Bengal are contemplating the initiation, and the working out of a scheme of child welfare work in Bengal on the lines adopted by the Madras Corporation and the Madras Government?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) Government recognize that the rate of infant mortality in Bengal is high and that one of the means of arresting the increase in mortality among infants is to train the indigenous *dhais* in maternity and child welfare work. A scheme was formulated by Government and placed before district boards which proposed that the local bodies should open classes for such training in suitable centres, Government making a grant of Rs. 250 to each district board which agreed to initiate the scheme. Ten of the district boards have agreed to open such classes and orders sanctioning the grant to each of these boards have issued.

(*b*) and (*c*) Infant welfare work on a limited scale is carried out by the four Lady Health Visitors in charge of the Maternity Centres; all babies delivered by Corporation Midwives are visited till they are three months old. A scheme for largely extending this work was drawn up some time ago, but has not been brought into operation for want of funds. There are, however, four Baby clinics and Milk Kitchens in Calcutta maintained by the Bengal Provincial Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society. These are run almost entirely by voluntary lady-workers, both European and Indian. The Corporation contributes a monthly grant of Rs. 465 and has provided accommodation free of charge for one of the Baby Clinics. Full details of the methods of work are given in a note submitted by Mrs. Cottle, Joint Honorary Secretary, a copy of which is laid on the Library table.

(*d*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*e*) and (*f*) In their resolution on the report of the Director of Public Health, Madras, for 1920, the Madras Government requested five district councils which showed large infant mortality to investigate the causes of the large death roll and to submit, in consultation with the Director of Public Health, a definite scheme for ameliorating the conditions of infant life.

It will appear from the annual report of the Health Officer of the City of Madras for 1921 that the Training School for Health Visitors has been established in that city by the Madras Maternity and Child

Welfare Association. The Child Welfare Centres and staff of the Madras Corporation are utilised for the training.

It is also reported that the work of the Madras Maternity and Child Welfare Association is carried on lines and in areas laid out by an informal conference of Health Workers convened by Government on the 24th October, 1921.

(*g*) Government are content to leave matters to the Corporation of Calcutta, so far as Calcutta is concerned. As regards the mufassal, a small beginning has been made in district board areas.

No expansion is possible at present, owing to the financial position.

Kala-azar in Burdwan.

429. Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table papers showing the result of inquiry into kala-azar in the Burdwan district by the Public Health Department Specialist?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: Copies of Dr. Sur's report on the results of the kala-azar inquiry conducted in the Burdwan district during the month of June, 1922, and in the Kalna municipality are laid on the Library table.

The attention of the local authorities has been drawn to the recommendations contained in Dr. Sur's report.

Since many of the cases are imported, a segregation policy is desirable, but financial difficulties arise. Regulations for the modification and isolation of kala-azar cases could doubtless be made under the Epidemic Diseases Act if the Kalna municipal board made an application in this behalf. They have been separately addressed on this point.

Case of Dalbahadur Giri.

430. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) aware—

(*i*) that Srijut Dalbahadur Giri was arrested for the third time at Darjeeling for joining a public procession on the last Ali Brothers' day and has been sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment;

(*ii*) that in the jail he was asked to give his finger print like the ordinary criminals and as a non-co-operator he refused to comply with that order and in consequence he was ordered to undergo rigorous imprisonment for three months more under section 186, Indian Penal Code; and

(*iii*) that from the Darjeeling jail he was transferred to Alipore, where non-co-operator special class prisoners refused to take a special diet unless Srijut Giri was given the same?

(*b*) Is it a fact that he was thereupon transferred to the Berhampore Jail, where, too, the special prisoners refused to take food unless equal diet was served to Srijut Giri?

(*c*) Is it a fact that Srijut Dalbahadur Giri was kept as a special class prisoner in the Berhampore Jail for nearly fifteen days and after that was transferred to the Hooghly Jail as an ordinary prisoner?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [JAILS] (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): (*a*) (*i*) He was arrested for loitering with no ostensible means of subsistence, and was ordered under section 109 of the Criminal Procedure Code to furnish a bond of Rs. 100, with one surety for the same amount, to be of good behaviour for a year. In default he was sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for the same period.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) He was transferred to Alipore as an ordinary prisoner, but the further suggestion made in the question is incorrect.

(*b*) and (*c*) He was transferred again; but owing to a misunderstanding, he was sent to the Berhampore Jail, where he remained for 19 days and was treated as a special class prisoner like the other non-co-operation prisoners in this Jail. When the mistake was discovered, he was transferred to Hooghly as an ordinary prisoner.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: It is said that owing to a misunderstanding he was sent to the Berhampore Jail. May I know what the nature of that misunderstanding was and how it arose?

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [JAILS] (Mr. M. C. McAlpin): I must ask for previous notice of the question.

Jhalakati-Barguna steamer service and mail arrangements.

431. Maulvi FAZLAL KARIM: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Commerce be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether he is aware that a passenger steamer of the 'Rivers Steam Navigation Company, starts daily from Barguna in the district of Bakarganj at 4 A.M. and reaches Jhalakati at noon and again returns for Barguna at 1 P.M. and reaches there at 9 P.M.;

(*ii*) whether it is a fact that the steamer carries the mails from several stations; and

(*iii*) whether it is a fact that on account of fog during the months of January and February, the steamer often reaches Jhalakati at late hours and does not return to Barguna on that day as usual?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of asking the company to run two steamers daily from both ends during January and February to remove the inconvenience of the people and irregularity of the mail service?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: (*a*) (*i*) A passenger steamer of the Rivers Steam Navigation Company is due to start daily from Barguna at 4 A.M. and to reach Jhalakati at 10 A.M. The steamer is due to leave Jhalakati at 11-30 A.M. and to reach Barguna at 6 P.M.

(*ii*) Mails from and for a few small branch post-offices are conveyed by this steamer.

(*iii*) It is not a fact that the steamer is often late on account of fog in the months of January and February. This year, the steamer reached Jhalakati late and did not return to Barguna on account of fog on only two occasions, viz., the 22nd January and 9th February.

(*b*) Government do not consider that the volume and importance of the mail, or the slight inconvenience caused to the local people, justify them approaching the company as suggested.

Selection of primary school text-books by district boards.

432. Maulvi A. K. FAZL-UL HAQ: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education aware that the district boards of Mymensingh, Rangpur, and Chittagong have selected unapproved books for district boards' aided primary schools in contravention of the instructions contained in Education Department Notification No. 6 T.B., dated the 13th October, 1922, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 15th November, 1922?

(*b*) If so, what steps, if any, does the Hon'ble the Minister intend to take with a view to prevent a recurrence of such action being taken by the district boards in future?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of issuing a circular allowing the teachers of primary schools instead of the district boards to have a free hand, as in the case of Middle English and Middle Vernacular Schools in selecting books intended for use in primary schools from the list approved in the notification quoted above?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter): (*a*) From the lists of primary school text-books for 1923 selected by the district boards in question, copies of which have been received in the office of the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, it appears that a number of unauthorized text-books have been included in these lists.

(*b*) The Director of Public Instruction has asked the boards to revise their lists and has also issued instructions to the Divisional Inspectors to see that unauthorized books are not used in primary schools. The Chairman, Rangpur district board, has assured the Director of Public Instruction that in future no books, other than those included in the departmental approved list, will be selected as text-books for primary schools. Similar replies are anticipated from other boards.

(*c*) Under the standing orders of the Government of India as well as of the local Government the district boards are authorized to select text-books from the departmental approved list for use in primary schools under their control. The Director of Public Instruction with the approval of Government has informed the district boards that they may select from the list approved by the department a small number of books for primary schools, care being taken to discourage anything in the shape of exclusive prescription and to secure that the selection is made with the utmost care so as to avoid undue patronage. It would be inadvisable to give the average primary school teacher a free hand in selecting books from the larger list issued by the department.

Touring of Police Superintendents.

433. Mr. W. L. TRAVERS: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the touring of Superintendents of Police has been stopped for some time, except under the express orders of the District Magistrate?

(*b*) If so, have any reports or complaints been received whether these orders have resulted in any hindrance to the work of the Superintendents?

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): (*a*) and (*b*) With the approval of Government the Inspecto-General of Police issued instructions on the 30th December, 1922, restricting touring, except for important or urgent purposes, with a view to keeping expenditure on travelling allowance within the allotted amount. One of these instructions was that gazetted officers should not go on tour unless ordered by the District Magistrate. When it was found possible to reappropriate certain funds from other heads of the police budget, the restrictions on touring were relaxed on the 3rd February, 1923. It is obvious that the supervision of ordinary police work was thereby reduced to a certain extent, but the financial position made this unavoidable.

Silting up of Nabaganga in Jessore.

434. Maulvi RAFI UDDIN AHMED: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation aware that the river Nabaganga in the Jhenidah subdivision of the Jessore district is being silted up?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Member also aware of the insanitary condition of the places on its banks?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking early steps to open the mouth of the river?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The matter has not been investigated yet.

Medical arrangements in Calcutta and in the mufassal.

435. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many charitable dispensaries in each district are maintained by district boards and municipalities;

(*ii*) how many again are maintained in each district by private charity;

(*iii*) how many again are maintained in each district partly by private charity and partly with the aid of the district board or the municipalities in each district;

(*iv*) what amounts are being spent by Government in each district outside Calcutta for medical arrangements and relief;

(*v*) what amounts again are being spent by Government for medical arrangements and relief in Calcutta;

(*vi*) how many thanas in each district have dispensaries and how many have not;

(*vii*) what is the population in each of these thanas either having or not having such a dispensary;

(*viii*) what the probable additional cost would be if additional dispensaries are to be established to meet the requirements of the situation;

(*ix*) what steps, if any, have the Government taken or are the Government going to take to establish such additional dispensaries.

(*x*) what amount would the Government be prepared to contribute to meet this problem;

(*xi*) in which of the districts is the death-rate higher than the birth-rate, and what is the ratio of the death-rate to the birth-rate;

(*xii*) whether he is aware that the supply of quinine in the existing dispensaries is inadequate;

(*xiii*) if so, is it due to the abnormal rise of the price of quinine;

(*xiv*) what is the reason of such rise in the price of quinine; and

(*xv*) what steps are the Government taking to bring down the price of quinine?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*i*) The member is referred to the answer given at the meeting of the 14th March, 1921, to unstarred question No. 64 asked by Babu Tankanath Chaudhuri. For further information the member is referred to Appendix F of the Government Resolution on the Working of the District Boards in Bengal showing the number of charitable dispensaries maintained by each district board. A statement showing the number of such dispensaries in each district maintained by the municipalities is laid on the Library table.

(*ii*) In addition to those mentioned in the reply referred to above, three more dispensaries were opened during the year 1921, and one transferred from private aided to private non-aided.

(*iii*) The member is referred to Statement H of the Report on the Working of Hospitals and Dispensaries, a copy of which is laid on the Library table.

(*iv*) and (*v*) The member is referred to columns 4 and 5 of Statement H of the Report on the Working of Hospitals and Dispensaries.

(*vi*) The member is referred to the replies given to Babu Tankanath Chaudhuri's question. Further information is not available.

(*vii*) The member is referred to the census reports.

(*viii*) The capital cost of each pucca dispensary with quarters varies in different districts from Rs. 5,500 to Rs. 10,000. The recurring cost varies from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,200 per annum.

(*ix*) and (*x*) A reference is invited to the scheme laid before the Legislative Council with the August estimates. Unfortunately the provision of Rs. 1½ lakhs has had to be curtailed to Rs. 15,000 in view of the financial stringency.

(*xi*) A statement furnishing the particulars is laid on the Library table.

(*xii*) Yes.

(*xiii*) Mainly.

(*xiv*) The law of supply and demand which Government are unable to regulate.

(*xv*) The price of quinine has since come down considerably.

Departmental retrenchment.

436. Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: With reference to the reply given to unstarred question No. 209 of Babu Amulya Dhone Addy on the 29th January, 1923, will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state—

(*i*) what are the principal items of retrenchment effected in each of the subjects mentioned in the said reply;

(*ii*) whether the savings have been made by the reduction of establishments, stoppage of new works or decrease in salaries; and

(*iii*) whether the savings are temporary or permanent?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: (*i*) and (*ii*) A statement is laid on the Library table. Since the said reply was given, Government have allowed expenditure against some of the items originally retrenched. The totals under the various heads in this statement will not, therefore, agree in all cases with the totals given in the said reply.

(*iii*) Most of the retrenchments have also been made in next year's budget.

Sanitation schemes.

437. Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of the schemes in the Department of Sanitation referred to in resolutions carried or accepted by the present Council with the approximate cost for each?

(*b*) Of these schemes, how many and which have been given effect to and the extent to which they have been given effect to?

(*c*) How many and which of these schemes have been held up for want of funds?

(*d*) How many and which of these schemes do the Government not propose to accept?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) to (*d*) A statement is laid on the Library table.

Government Bills.

The Calcutta Rent (Amendment) Bill, 1923.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Calcutta Rent Act, 1920.

My motion has reference to the promise which I made on behalf of Government on the occasion when we considered Mr. Campbell Forrester's Bill. I then said, that the Government had decided to withdraw all rent control with effect from the 1st of April, 1924, and I added that the Rent Act, the present one, would expire in May, 1923, and therefore it would be necessary to introduce a short Bill to be passed by this Council extending the life of the present Act till the 31st of March, 1924. The object of this Bill is to give effect to this pledge and I place the Bill before the House.

Mr. PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. E. A. Cotton): Do you want to oppose the introduction of the Bill, Mr. Campbell Forrester?

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: I want to speak on the statement of Objects and Reasons.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You will have an opportunity to speak on the Bill afterwards.

The question is that leave be given to introduce a Bill to amend the Calcutta Rent Act, 1920.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

The Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: Needless to say that this Bill does not entirely meet with my approval. This is a statement that you would naturally expect from me. I had given considerable care and thought to my Bill that was withdrawn, and I am sure, had it been passed, it would have made the situation fair in every way; but I recognised that the Bill could not be passed without the aid of the Government; therefore, I felt that I was not justified in jeopardising the compromise that was held out to me by Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea, but I fear that this Bill will only temporarily meet the position.

I will not enter upon any ill-natured criticism against the Hon'ble Minister in charge. He gets more of that than he really deserves. I have the highest respect for him. He has done his best to solve a difficult position. He had compromised over my Bill, but he has left out all reference to the middleman. He has given no relief to the

sub-tenants. This is indeed one of the most galling omissions in the amended Bill. I fear we will find that the tenant's troubles will be as keen as they are to-day when this Bill expires, and their battle will have to be fought all over again.

The Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan said, in the Legislative Council, on April 12th, 1920:—

> I think we may leave it to the good sense of the people of Calcutta. If after three years they find they have derived a certain amount of benefit, which this Bill hopes to effect, we must leave it to them to apply for an extension for another two years.

The Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja Bahadur has all the characteristics of a statesman. He saw what was likely to happen in the future. He does not mention one year; he mentions two, *i.e.*, May 1925, and there is no doubt in my mind that it will be at least two years before this housing accommodation is relieved, and I wish the word "two" had been inserted instead of "one" in this amendment Bill for the reasons I have already mentioned. Perhaps it is not too late yet for the Hon'ble Minister to alter the word "one" to "two."

We know what the feeling in England is at the present time. No candidate who supports the Government, which favours the speedy de-control of rents, has the slightest chance of being returned to Parliament. We find by the Press that the feeling at Home is very high, and the question of de-controlling house rent is affecting the whole of the political position, and such keen pressure is being brought to bear on the Home Government for the extension of the Act that I feel sure they will be compelled to comply with the public request. Calcutta's condition in housing affairs is worse than in England. Therefore, let Calcutta be inspired by the example that England is giving them to-day; let them see that no candidate is returned to the Legislative Council at the forthcoming elections who is not pledged to an extension of the Rent Act; let the citizens realize the power they have now got; let them wake up and fulfil their great responsibilities; let it not be said of them that, having eyes, they see not and, having ears, they hear not the things that so vitally concern their lives. Remember, you can only judge the future by your experience of the past. It is regrettable that the Hon'ble Minister in his Objects and Reasons should state the following:—

> The Government desire to place on record their definite opinion that at the end of March, 1924, such control will finally cease.

I cannot believe that the Minister in charge of this Bill really means this. This stalwart of democracy, who on Wednesday night rang out in clear notes that he (the Minister) believed in "the government of the people for the people by the people," will never nor can he ever ignore public opinion. If at the expiry of this Act, matters are no better than they are at present, then it will be wrong not to renew this Act; and if it is wrong then, he cannot say that people have a right to do wrong. A husband and wife may be divorced and go to different

countries where they are beyond the reach of each other, but landlords and tenants cannot do this. They must remain face to face, and it lies principally with the landlords whether that intercourse is to be amicable or hostile. If they do not desire to be hostile, let them enter into an arrangement with their tenants that will show that when the Rent Act expires they will not take advantage of rent monopoly. If they will not do this, then the position will become intolerable. The tenants of Calcutta must organize and be ready for the fight that is almost sure to come in February or March, 1924. It is useless to say that the tenants are like unto an Eastern mendicant exposing his running sores and asking for sympathy, and he, the Hon'ble Minister in charge, will be like unto the Pharisee of old and pass him by unheeded. No one could imagine such a thing happening with the Hon'ble Minister. We look upon him as the good Samaritan, who will stop and attend to the wounds of those who cannot help themselves; and do we not also remember a certain occasion when a settled fact became an unsettled fact principally through the instrumentality of the Hon'ble Minister?

I am sure that if it is proved that a grave injustice will be done to the multitudes of Calcutta if the Act be not continued, the matter will receive tender, sympathetic attention and consideration from the Hon'ble Minister, Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea. His political and sympathetic outlook will never permit him to allow the multitudes of Calcutta to be down-trodden and tyrannized over by any particular section. I trust he will always have that straight, fine and broad outlook of justice to all, and knowing that, we may rest assured that if the Hon'ble Minister in charge is convinced that there is a necessity for the renewal of the Act, it will be done; and it is for the citizens to see that they are not forced to submission and that the landlords are not permitted to bind and rivet those chains of extortion which they have been forging for some time.

It is indeed gratifying to me to find the Hon'ble Minister in charge is going to take the housing problem up sincerely and try to get at the root of the trouble by solving the present housing problem on proper lines by extending the boundaries and improving transport—a most laudable and essential thing to do. The subject must be grappled with in a proper manner, as every large and overcrowded centre has been tackled, by the opening out of the suburbs of the city and by proper transport facilities such as a tube circular railway, an overhead railway, or some suitable, cheap and rapid means of transport. But, Sir, this cannot be done in a year or two. It therefore behoves the tenants to be thoroughly prepared for all eventualities, and they will only have themselves to blame if they are oppressed. Sir, I am not opposing the Bill. I am opposing the Statement of Objects and Reasons, in which the Hon'ble Minister states that the control will cease at the end of March, 1924.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJSA: I gave notice of an amendment which, I understand, has been disallowed. But may I be permitted to make a suggestion to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Bill? I beg to suggest that the procedure adopted in cases of revisions from original suits be simplified. This could be done by slightly modifying section 24 of the Act.

Mr. PRESIDENT: If you look at the preamble of the Bill, you will see that the only object of the Bill is to provide for an extension of the Act for a further period as provided in the Bill, and therefore any question of altering the machinery of the existing Act does not arise. That is why I ruled your amendment out of order.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: So, I will not be permitted to make any suggestion in regard to the details of the Bill?

Mr. PRESIDENT: You can make a suggestion, but it does not arise in the least under the present Bill. If you make any suggestion, it will be rather like making it to the empty air.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: Then I need not take up the time of the Council any further.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The question is that the Calcutta Rent (Amendment) Bill, 1923, be taken into consideration.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I move that the Bill be passed.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Bengal Aerial Ropeways Bill, 1923.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): I move that permission be given to introduce the Bengal Aerial Ropeways Bill, 1923.

It will be within the memory of the Council that the necessity for such a Bill was first brought to their notice in my speech on the 21st November, 1921. It was subsequently decided by the Council that the Bill should be referred to a Select Committee. On that reference being made, the Committee stated, amongst other things, that many important public services, such as the supply of coal, were dependent on the efforts of private companies, and that one of the latest scientific methods of working coal deposits economically was by "sand stowage," the sand being carried from a distance by aerial ropeway. The opinion expressed by the Committee was that companies which serve important objects of public utility should be given the facilities offered by the Bill in respect of the construction of aerial ropeways. The

decision of the Select Committee was that the Bill as then framed was not comprehensive, inasmuch as it contained no provision for Government supervision or control over privately owned ropeways.

On the 22nd March, 1922, I communicated to the Council the Select Committee's recommendations, and was permitted to withdraw the Bill for the purpose of revising it and widening its scope.

The Bill has now been revised and enlarged in accordance with the foregoing recommendations. It indicates the procedure to be adopted by a promoter before an undertaking can be sanctioned, it authorizes Government to scrutinize the type and nature of construction, to appoint an inspector to examine the construction, maintenance and working of the line, and provides for all measures necessary to ensure the efficient and safe carriage of passengers, animals and goods, as also for the protection of the rights of the public.

The clauses dealing with public safety and Government inspection have been made equally applicable to private as to public aerial ropeways.

I beg leave, Sir, now to introduce the Bengal Aerial Ropeways Bill, 1923.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

The Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.

The Calcutta Improvement (Amendment) Bill, 1923.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANARJEA: I beg leave of the House to introduce the Calcutta Improvement (Amendment) Bill, 1923. The objects of this Bill are set forth in the Statement of Objects and Reasons and also in the explanatory clauses by which that statement is accompanied. The Bill places beyond doubt the power of the Improvement Trust to operate in the suburbs and in the environs of Calcutta. That was formerly a matter of doubt and it is now set at rest by the provisions of this Bill. In the next place, the distinction that exists in the present law between street improvement and general improvement has disappeared. The conditions of Calcutta often make it impossible to observe this distinction: a street improvement frequently slides into a general improvement scheme. The distinction has now been done away with, and it will be one of the main objects of the Improvement Trust to open squares and other similar conveniences which used to be a subsidiary consideration under the existing law. There are certain distinct stages in the preparation and completion of schemes of improvement. First, the plans and estimates are prepared, then they are sent to the local Government; the local Government considers them and if they are approvd by the local Government the plans and estimates are forwarded to the Corporation, and if the Corporation agree, the scheme is considered as having been passed.

If they do not agree, the matter comes up to the Government for final decision. That is the state of things which the Bill provides. There has been considerable difference of opinion as regards the obligations which section 65 of the Act imposes. The section has now been redrafted and these difficulties have been made clear. The Trust will now provide water-supply and lighting adjuncts in respect of streets which they have constructed in the same way as the Corporation does. Further, the Trust will be in a position to make over a street to the Corporation when a street has been constructed, although the whole of the thoroughfare is not complete.

Difficulties may sometimes arise by reason of the absence of the assessors, and it has been provided in the Bill that a panel is to be constituted: half of the members of the panel being nominated by the Corporation; and if an assessor is absent and if he has been returned by the Corporation, his place will be filled from the panel submitted by the Corporation. Further, the President of the Improvement Trust Tribunal will be authorized under the provisions of the Bill to lay before the Government a statement of his expenditure, and it will be for the Government to pass it, subject to such modifications as Government may think fit. We think that this is necessary for the degnity of the President of the Tribunal. There are other matters referred to in the Bill which are set forth in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. I do not want to tire the House with them.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

The Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.

The Indian Salt (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1923.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Indian Salt Act, 1882.

This is a very simple Bill, the object of which is set out in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. Under section 18 of the Salt Act, salt officers when making searches in connection with the unlawful manufacture of salt, are required to conduct these searches in the presence of a police officer. This Bill gives the salt officers power to make these searches without the assistance of the police, but it will not debar them from calling in the police when necessary.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till 3 P.M. on Friday, the 16th March, 1923, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 15th March, 1923, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President in the Chair, the four Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council, the three Hon'ble Ministers, and 81 nominated and elected members.

Non-official Members' Bills.

The Bengal Fish Fry Preservation Bill, 1922.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved for leave to introduce a Bill for the preservation of certain kinds of fish fry in the Presidency of Bengal.

He addressed the Council in Bengali. The translation of his speech is as follows:—

The Bengal Fish Fry Preservation Bill, which I have the honour to introduce in the Council to-day, will undoubtedly bode immense good to the country if passed into law. There are two laws existing on the subject, viz., (*1*) Bengal Act II of 1889, and (*2*) India Avt IV of 1897. But nothing has been clearly mentioned in these Acts with a view to preserving the fish fry from the clutches of the villagers.

It is no exaggeration to say that there is a famine of food in Bengal, I mean *Sujala Sufala* Bengal. Fishes are daily becoming scarce and having nowadays become a luxury, and not a bare necessity, as they were in former days. In Bengal, fish is an indispensable article of food. The population of Bengal is increasing by leaps and bounds, and the scarcity of fish cannot, as a matter of course, keep pace with the demands of the people. These fry are being wantonly destroyed by the people, but if they can be preserved, the chief want of the Bengalis will be removed. It is, therefore, essentially necessary that an Act should be made for the preservation of fish fry.

An Act has been made for the protection of wild birds. Similarly, an Act should be made for the protection of fish fry. To my mind it appears that opinions from various quarters should be invited so that we may be in a position to rectify ourselves where we err. We may then appoint a Select Committee and sift the Bill in all its aspects.

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: I beg to oppose the introduction of this Bill on principle. No doubt the mover has been actuated by the best of motives, but it would be very difficult to put it into effect. Supposing the Bill is passed into law, how are we to prevent the catching of fish? Evidently some officers will have to be deputed for preventing people from catching fish. The result of that will be not to restrict the catching of fish—it will go on as usual.

Mr. PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. E. A. Cotton): Not a long speech, Rai Bahadur. Under the rules, no long speech is allowed but you can state your objections quite briefly.

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: The result of this will be that some extra money will go into the pockets of those deputed to prevent the catching of fish fry while the fry will be caught as at present. That is one of the reasons why I object. I would like to mention another. There is a Bengali adage: *Matsyer mâr putrasok nâi*, the meaning of which is that "the mother of fishes does not mourn for the loss of her children." There is also another saying: *Mar chaité jé bâshe bhâla, také balé dâna*, the meaning of which is "whoever pretends to love better than the mother is a devil." We are going to protect the fry, which means that we feel more than its mother. We are certainly not its friends. On these grounds I oppose the introduction of this Bill.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: May I speak?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Rai Bahadur, you can record your objection. If you look at rule 50, you will find that it allows only one member to speak.

The motion was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Mahomall, Munshi.

NOES.

Ahmed, Mr. M.
Aley, Mr. S. Mahboob.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Banerjea, Dr. Pramathanath.
Birley, Mr. L.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Choudhury, Khan Bahadur Khalvi Rahmatjan.
Cotton, Mr. H. J.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
De, Mr. K. C.
Deare, Major-General S. H.
Dey, Mr. G. C.
Donald, the Hon'ble Mr. J.
Donovan, Mr. J. T.
Emerson, Mr. T.
Faroqui, Mr. K. G. M.
Geede, Mr. S. W.
Harnett, Mr. W. W.
Huntingford, Mr. G. T.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.

Marr, Mr. A.
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Philip, Mr. J. Y.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal.
Robertson, Mr. P. W.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Krishna.
Ray, Mr. Bijoyprasad Singh.
Ray, Mr. C. N.
Roy, Mr. J. N.
Ray, Raja Manilell Singh.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Stephenson, the Hon'ble Mr. H. L.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
Villiers, Mr. F. E. E.

The Ayes being 5 and the Noes 41, the motion was lost.

The Bengal Suppression of Brothels Bill, 1923.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved for leave to introduce a Bill for the suppression of brothels and immoral traffic.

He addressed the Council in Bengali. The translation of his speech is as follows:—

An Act on this subject has been made in the Central Provinces (Act II of 1921). This Bill, I hope, was circulated to the members in time, and I think they have appreciated the noble object of this Bill. Some of the members, however, have expressed surprise at my conduct in presenting this Bill to the House for consideration. Sir, prostitution is severely condemned in the Muhammadan religion, and I do not think any other religion on the face of the earth ever supports this diabolical vice. Therefore, the main object of this Bill is to wipe out public prostitution from the country.

Sir, the meeting held in the Young Men's Christian Association under the Presidency of the Lord Bishop of Calcutta also justified the need of having a measure like the Brothels Act for the suppression of traffic in girls and prostitution.

The present Bill is intended for the whole of Bengal. A few days ago Professor S. C. Mukherji was afforded an opportunity of introducing a similar Bill in the Council on the lines of clauses 5, 7, 16, 24, 25 and 30 of this Bill. That Bill was intended only for Calcutta, and I think the Bill has been circulated to various bodies and associations for an expression of their opinion. I hope opinions may also be invited on this Bill, and when these are received, the Select Committee will adequately weigh them in the balance.

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): I oppose the introduction of this Bill not from any want of sympathy with the object of it, but because the House has already before it the subject-matter of the Bill in the shape of the Bill introduced by Professor Mukherji. The scope of the two Bills is practically the same, the only difference being that the present Bill extends to the whole of Bengal, while Professor Mukherji's Bill is restricted to Calcutta. I think the House will agree that in dealing with this matter, it is

desirable that we should tackle Calcutta first before we touch the mufassal. It will be open to the House to incorporate in Professor Mukherji's Bill any of the details of the present Bill which may be considered useful in the Select Committee; and I think it will be exceeding inconvenient if the House has before it at the same time two separate Bills dealing with the same subject. The attitude of Government with regard to Professor Mukherji's Bill is one of entire sympathy; but as I have said, it will lead to confusion and to inconvenience if we try to deal with two Bills of the same kind at the same time.

On Shah Syed Emdadul Haq desiring to have an opportunity of replying, the Hon'ble the President ruled that he had no such right.

The motion was then put and lost.

Resolutions

(on matters of general public interest).

Pay of Ministerial Officers.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Two resolutions relating to the pay of Ministerial officers have already been moved by Maulvi A. K. Fasl-ul Haq and Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta. The House will remember that after Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta had moved his resolution on the 29th January, the Council adjourned for want of a quorum. These two resolutions are, therefore, still before the Council and the debate on them will be resumed.

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, FINANCE DEPARTMENT (Mr. A. Marr): We have recently heard a great deal about retrenchment, and I expect that in the next fortnight we shall hear a great deal more. I am surprised that two such strong exponents of retrenchment as Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq and Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta should move resolutions which, if accepted, would undoubtedly lead to a great deal of expenditure. I am also rather surprised at Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta's resolution, because I find that one of the motions for reduction that he has put in, would reduce the head "District Administration" by as much as Rs. 3 lakhs, which it would be perfectly impossible to do except by reducing either the pay of clerks or by dismissing them.

Government are not prepared to accept either of these resolutions. The question of the revision of the pay of the ministerial establishment was carefully considered by a Committee presided over by Mr. McAlpin, and I think we all agree that Mr. McAlpin has much more experience in this matter than any other members of this House. The recommendations of that Committee were further very carefully considered by Government and the general decisions arrived at were come to only after all possible cases had been considered.

Maulvi Fazl-ul Haq, in moving his resolution, dealt with the matter in a general way, and I think my comments on Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta's recommendations will cover all that he said.

Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta's first recommendation is that the percentage limitations should be removed. These limitations are detailed in paragraph 5 of the main resolution, and they run as follows:—

Subject to the proviso that no officer will draw less than the minimum of the new scale or more than the maximum, the initial pay must not exceed the substantive, provisionally substantive, or substantive *pro tempore* pay plus temporary allowances drawn on the 1st January, 1922, by more than—

(1) 40 per cent. in the case of those drawing pay of not more than Rs. 100 on that day,

(2) 30 per cent. in the case of those drawing pay from Rs. 101 to Rs. 200 on that day,

(3) 20 per cent. in the case of those drawing pay more than Rs. 200 on that day.

In this connection, he referred to a certain remark made by Sir John Kerr in his speech dealing with this subject. He failed, however, to observe that when Sir John Kerr made this remark, he was dealing altogether with "previous pay," that is to say, the pay as drawn before the *ad interim* allowance was introduced; whereas in our resolution we worked on "previous pay *plus ad interim* allowance." Therefore, there is no question of a promise not being carried out; the two things were on totally different lines.

Now to go back to the question of percentage limitations, I do not think that anyone can claim that the limitations which were laid down are unreasonable. They were imposed because, when we began to look into the question of the application of these time-scales of pay, we found that, unless some sort of limitation was laid down, certain clerks doing exactly the same work as their brothers in other offices would get very much more than the latter. This may have been owing to some accident or peculiarity in their past services. It is, necessary, I think, that what would have been regarded as a grievance by other clerks, should not be allowed. We therefore carefully considered what percentages we should allow as maxima and they have been embodied in the resolution I have referred to.

As regards Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta's second point, that the instruction that the incremental period will be reckoned from the 1st January, 1922, in the case of clerks on fixed pay, should be withdrawn, what he really means, as he has explained, is that in the case of those on fixed pay before the revision, the date of increment should be the date of appointment to Government service. I may explain that in the case of those clerks who were previously on time-scales of pay, the date of increment on the old time-scale has been repeated in the new time-scale. This is quite a simple matter, because these clerks came on to those time-scales on perfectly definite dates. But this does not apply to a clerk who was

previously on a fixed pay. Let us suppose that he has served 20 years. There are different dates during these 20 years on which he had been promoted to different grades. He was confirmed in Government service in the lowest grade on a certain date and as he was promoted, each promotion was made on a certain date. These dates are all different. Therefore, it is impossible to decide which of these dates should be taken as the date of increment when a clerk on a fixed pay is brought on to the time-scale. If we had taken the date of original confirmation, it would have acted very unfairly on certain clerks. We therefore decided that the fairest thing to do was to fix one date for all such clerks and we accordingly fixed the 1st January, 1922.

To take Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta's last recommendation, namely, that the interpretation of the term "corresponding post" should be withdrawn, this is a matter which has given us more trouble than any other part of the scheme of revision of pay. I think probably the best way in which I can explain this to the Council is to give a specific case. We have in the Secretariat at present an Assistant who started his career in Government service in a Collector's office. He was promoted to a Commissioner's office, and from the Commissioner's office to the Board of Revenue and to the Secretariat, where he now is. While he was in the district office, he rose to a certain pay. When transferred to the Commissioner's office, he started either at that pay or on a slightly increased pay and rose to a certain other pay. The same happened when he was in the office of the Board of Revenue and from the Board of Revenue's office he came to the Secretariat on a certain pay. When we apply our rule of bringing the man on to the time-scale, he comes on to that scale at the pay at which he started in the Secretariat and his subsequent service in the Secretariat counts as service on the time-scale. If, however, the definition of "corresponding post" is abolished, as Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta desires, then that clerk can count the whole of his service in all the subordinate offices on the Secretariat time-scale and thus get to a pay on the time-scale very much higher than he is entitled to in comparison with others of equal service. It is therefore absolutely necessary to have some sort of definition. At the same time in this connection Indu Bhushan Babu mentioned a grievance which had already attracted the attention of Government, that is that certain assistants who were in the Secretariat and Board of Revenue and who had done service in the Eastern Bengal and Assam Secretariat and Board of Revenue did not get their position in the time-scale according to their service. When we looked into the matter, we found that a mistake had been made. Orders have now been issued that service in the Eastern Bengal and Assam Secretariat and Board of Revenue of the same standing will count as service in the Bengal Secretariat and Board of Revenue respectively. I think every one will agree that that is very fair. This grievance has been removed and I am sure our assistants who belonged to the old Eastern

Bengal Secretariat will be thankful to Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta for mentioning the matter.

As regards the general proposition, the pay of all the ministerial officers in the Province has been fixed after a great deal of labour both in our offices and in the Accountant-General's office. If Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta's recommendations are accepted, the whole of that labour will be lost and we shall have to start again and revise the pay of almost all our clerks and all the work that was done in our office and in the Accountant-General's office will have to be redone. This will lead to a lot of unnecessary expenditure. I would also remind the members of this House that, when we fixed this pay in 1921, economic conditions were a great deal harder than they are now; prices are now falling and I do not think that there is any reason at all for a further improvement of the conditions under which the time-scales have been applied.

[At this stage Mr. Deputy-President took the chair.]

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: When I sent notice of this resolution, I knew perfectly well that the stick of retrenchment would be brought down on my devoted head—as it has practically been brought down by Mr. Marr. But it seems strange that the question of retrenchment is only brought forward when we talk of people who really get a subsistence pay and not about people who get a luxurious pay. Even now we understand that the Imperial Services are trying to get an additional increase and the question of retrenchment does not arise in their case. It is only when we talk of clerks—poor clerks—who have to struggle for their daily existence that we have the question of retrenchment brought before this House. In my resolution, I did not want anything extraordinary; I only wanted the Government to stick to its own declaration. It is known to members of this Council that the Hon'ble Sir John Kerr, as Finance Member, declared in this Council in September, 1921, that the percentage limitations would not be applied. I quoted from his speech when moving the resolution and it seems strange that the present Finance Secretary would go back on the declaration made before this Council.

Then, Sir, a case has been cited by Mr. Marr of a clerk rising gradually from a Collector's office to a Secretariat office. May I ask a question of Mr. Marr? Take the case of an officer who had previously been a Sub-Deputy Collector and in course of time was promoted to a Deputy Collectorship. Will the period of his service as Sub-Deputy Collector be not counted in the Deputy Collector's grade?

Mr. A. MARR: No; it will not be counted in the Deputy Collector's time-scale of pay.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: In that case, Sir, I would not press this point. But may I hope that for the lower division clerks, at any rate, the percentage limitation may be withdrawn?

Then, as regards my third point, I am glad to find that my suggestion has been accepted. The main point of my argument was that clerks who served in the Eastern Bengal and Assam Secretariat were being deprived of the period of their service in that Secretariat; and now that point has been accepted. I beg leave to withdraw my resolution.

The motion standing in the name of Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul Haq was put and lost.

The motion standing in the name of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta was, then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

[At this stage the Hon'ble the President returned to the Chair.]

Separation of Judicial and Executive functions.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I move that this Council recommends to the Government that steps be taken to give effect to the recommendations made in the Greaves' Committee Report on the separation of judicial from the executive functions in the administration of the Presidency, with such modifications as may be conducive to greater economy and efficiency, e.g., concentration of Revenue and Treasury work, as far as possible in the district headquarters stations.

The Greaves' Committee Report on the separation of executive and judicial functions is now lying before the Government for over a year and it is a matter of keen disappointment that the Government has not yet been able to make up its mind and formulate a workable scheme to give effect to the persistent popular demand for the separation of these two functions. Rather the belated publication of the report with no indication of the Government's intentions has aggravated the popular suspicion roused by the halting, hesitating, and ambiguous speech of Sir Henry Wheeler when the resolution was carried in the Council. I, however, fully realize the difficulties of the Government and have therefore worded my resolution as modestly as possible.

All proposals for the separation in the past, were assailed on three broad grounds, namely, principle, expediency, and cost. The question of principle seems to have been settled once for all by the assurance given by Sir William Vincent in the Council of State early in 1921. The Madras Government had, however, wanted to shelve the matter on the ground of administrative expediency. Here, in Bengal, Sir Henry Wheeler was rather vague on the question of expediency. But the reference to the Greaves' Committee was "to elaborate a practical working scheme for the separation of executive and judicial functions in the administration of Bengal and to report on the cost thereof." I therefore take it for granted that the question of advisability or otherwise of the separation will no more be raised by the local Government.

I specially refer to this aspect of the question, because a deep-rooted antipathy towards this separation is still very much alive in many of the executive officials. They are apprehensive, and perhaps justly so, that it would mean the end of the still-lingering autocratic character of the magistrates in the districts. For, even till recently, the District Magistrate had been the *de facto* " Dictator " in the district and, for all practical purposes, almost the supreme head of all the departments of the administration, with unfettered discretion and unlimited powers. This might have worked all right as long as the basic principle of British rule in India was benevolent despotism. But with the advance of democratic ideas and with the growth of democratic institutions, this form of administration has got to go. The process of evolution has already begun and is now advanced too far. Decentralization of almost all the important departments under the District Magistrate is now an accomplished fact. The judge, the policeman, and the revenue officer, all rolled in one is now the only remnant of the despotic nineteenth century. It is well that the Government now realizes that this, too, should go.

So, it is now only necessary to examine the proposals of the Committee from the financial point of view and suggest whether any reduction in the expenses involved in the scheme is possible without impairing the efficiency of the administration. For it is evident that none of us, neither the country nor the Government would like to put an unwarrantable financial burden on the already depleted exchequer of the country. The non-recurring expenditure in the scheme as proposed, is a comparatively small sum of Rs. 1,50,000 and would to a large extent depend on the way in which we give effect to the scheme. If we can come to a satisfactory solution regarding the work in the subdivisions, this amount could be reduced to about Rs. 50,000. I need not, therefore, take up the time of the Council in discussing this item of expenditure. The recurring cost, however, comes up to well over Rs. 5,00,000 and the most formidable item in this is a sum of Rs. 3,50,000, which has been estimated for the additional staff in the subdivisions. Even this amount appears to me to be an underestimate, for the scheme has not taken into account the cost of additional High Court establishment, leave reserves, probationers, pensions, and contingency charges. With these charges the cost would perhaps come up to Rs. 9,00,000, if not more. It, however, appears that a real and considerable saving could have been effected by a little readjustment of the police, revenue, and administrative work in the district headquarters and subdivisions. This, Sir, has also been admitted by the Committee, but it is singularly unfortunate that it did not enter into the question on the alleged ground of its being outside the scope of its inquiry.

The present staff in the subdivisions, as a rule, consists of one Deputy Collector and one Sub-Deputy Collector with one or more Circle Officers

who are also Sub-Deputy Collectors. Though from the rules and regulations it appears that the scope of the duties of their offices is almost as wide as that of the District Magistrate and his subordinates at the headquarters in practice, it is found, in most of the subdivisions, that they have to perform very little revenue and administrative work, judicial work taking up most of their time. The main non-judicial functions in a district or a subdivision are the following:—

(1) Land Revenue including Road Cess and Certificates;
(2) Government Estates including Government Cases;
(3) Land Acquisition;
(4) Partition Cases;
(5) Tenancy Law Cases;
(6) Superintendence of Excise, Registration and Local Self-Government Departments;
(7) Maintenance of Law and Order; and
(8) Treasury and Stamps.

Of this list, all the important work of Land Revenue, Land Acquisition and Partition cases are done at the Sadar. Government Estates are generally under the charge of special officers who are mainly responsible to the District Collector and Government cases are also, as a rule, under the direct charge of the District Collector. Tenancy Law cases at the subdivisions are few and far between. Superintendence of Excise, Registration and Local Self-Government Departments by subdivisional officers is, under the present decentralized system, almost of a nominal character.

Thus the only important administrative work which is done by the executive officers in the subdivision consists of law and order and the sub-treasury. Maintenance of law and order might at first sight look very big, but in practice it is really the province of the Police, and except in extraordinary circumstances, the control exercised by the executive officers, is of a technical and superficial character. Again, the work of sub-treasuries in most of the subdivisions is very light, consisting of petty remittances from different courts, the Post and Registration offices, and sale of stamps and court-fees and disbursements of salaries and pensions. Moreover, very few of them are opened more than twice a week. Briefly this is how the administration is conducted in our districts and subdivisions. And the Committee, presumably, to interfere as little as possible with the present arrangement of things, has suggested practically a duplication of the staff in the subdivisions. Hence the schemes provides two officers each, of the class of Deputy Collectors and Sub-Deputy Collectors, in place of the present provision of one each, together with their additional establishments and house allowances. One group is to be in charge of the judicial work and the other, executive. But from the nature of revenue and administrative work done in

the subdivisions, it would appear that these executive offices can be safely abolished in most of the subdivisions, the work being centralized at the headquarter stations. Sub-treasuries, too, in most cases, can be easily abolished, the remittances and disbursements being made direct to and from the district treasuries as is done in Malda and Bogra. The sale of stamps and court-fees can be managed through the vendors as is the practice at present in the munsifi choukies. Even if it be thought impracticable to abolish the sub-treasuries, they cau be placed in charge of Sub-Deputy Collectors or Circle Officers where they are available without much additional cost, as has been suggested by the Committee.

But the real difficulty of this proposal for the abolition of the executive offices in the subdivisions lies in the question of responsibility for the maintenance of law and order in the subdivisions. The Committee still proposes to hold, along with the Police, the District and the Subdivisional Executive Officers responsible for law and order, and therefore vests them with the powers under the preventive sections of the Criminal Procedure Code. Sir, personally I am against this division of responsibility between the Executive Officers and the Superintendents of Police, and do not see any reason why the responsibility should not also legally rest where it actually does. It is fit and proper that while we depend on the Police for peace and order and seek to strengthen it, and spend about two crores on it, on that ground alone, the Police must also be held entirely responsible for the same, and the District Executive Officers should be divested of all Police work. The Police of the present day is a highly organized and centralized body, and in the opinion of the Government, very efficient and trustworthy, and so the emergency, but *quasi*-judicial powers which the Committee proposes to retain in the hands of the District Officers might with advantage, with the modifications suggested by the Raja of Santosh, be given to the District Superintendent of Police and the head Police Officer in the subdivision, namely, to initiate proceedings or, in emergencies, to pass conditional orders against which appeals should lie to the District Judge. Sir, it should be apparent to the Government that the strong hold which the magistrates now have over the Police, is based on the fact of their being the Police Magistrates also. But when they will be deprived of their judicial powers, they would hardly be able to exercise any effective control over the Police. Even now, where there is a strong Superintendent of Police, the District Magistrate is a non-entity so far as his control over the Police is concerued. So when he would be shorn of his judicial authority it would be a farce to keep him still responsible for the peace and order of the district. In the circumstances, it would be more statesmanlike to be a little bolder and make the Police a distinct authority, entirely responsible for the prevention and detection of crimes in the district with full powers to cope with emergencies. I do not know in what light the

House will take it, but I make bold to assert that we should either entirely separate the judicial, the executive, and the police functions, or leave the matter as it now stands. Sir, though my community, viz., the landholders, are the worst sufferers under the present system, I would be the last person to be a party to any half-way measure which, apart from being costly, would weaken both the Police and the Magistracy and help none.

Now, Sir, if it be possible to give effect to this suggestion, there would hardly be any necessity to maintain a separate executive staff in the subdivisions, and thus it would mean not only saving of the additional sum of Rs. 3,50,000 for additional staff as estimated by the Committee, but also some saving in the existing cost by the abolition of a few posts of the executive officers in the subdivisions and their establishment. But this centralization might necessitate for touring purposes, the addition of a Deputy Collector or a Sub-Deputy Collector at the Sadar according to the importance and amount of work.

From what I have placed before the House, I think, Sir, that I have been able to show that with some modifications, it is possible to give effect to the scheme of the separation of functions at a much reduced cost than that estimated by the Committee, namely, by about Rs. 4,00,000 in recurring expenses and about Rs. 1,00,000 in non-recurring expenses required for additional buildings at subdivisional stations.

There remains only another matter to which I would like to refer. This is about the recruitment, training, and control of the services. This is a very important matter and was thought to be a subject of considerable difficulty in connection with the previous schemes. It is unfortunate that the matter has not been porperly discussed by the Greaves' Committee. I admit it at once that to me this aspect of the question appears highly complex, and, in view of the huge literature and conflicting opinions, is rather bewildering. I however place my views for what they are worth. I consider that the heads of the district police, for some time to come, should mainly consist of Imperial Service men, and bearing this in mind the number of new recruits as Assistant and Deputy Superintendents of Police, the latter being Indian should be settled. And it also seems to be necessary that no police officers should be placed in charge of subdivision before 5 years of service, and in that of a district before 10 years. The head of the police in charge of a district or a subdivision should be vested, as I have already stated, with the initiative powers under the preventive sections. I would further like to subject section 144 to similar reservation. The control of the Police Service should remain with the local Government, rather in charge of the Member of the Political Department. With regard to the Revenue and other administrative branches, I would like to have the officers absolutely free from judicial and police work and they should be, as far as possible, of the present Deputy Collector and Sub-Deputy Collector class. There should be no further recruitment from the Indian Civil Service

class for these branches of administration, as the number of Indian Civil Service officers now in this branch of the service is sufficient to supply a fair number of District Officers and for the superior posts in the Revenue Department for a pretty long period after which it is expected that the Indians would be able to manage these branches from top to bottom. The recruitment and control of these officials should rest with the local Government in the Revenue Department.

Now I come to the Judicial Service which would include both Civil and Criminal branches. These should be officered both by men of the Indian and Bengal Civil Services. The candidates for the latter Service should in future be recruited from the class of men from which the munsifs are now recruited, i.e., they must be graduates in law without least three years' practice. There should be two branches of the Bengal Judicial Service, one Civil and other Criminal, and the latter for the present should be constituted of the Deputy Magistrates engaged in criminal work. In future, during the first five years of service, free interchange between the two branches should be allowed, after which the officers should attached to the particular branch for which they are most suited. In the one, the officers will be known as munsifs ultimately reaching the grade of subordinate judges, and in the other, they would be known as magistrates later on becoming joint sessions judges and a select few from both the branches should be appointed District or Additional District and Sessions Judges. The Indian Civil Service recruits for the first ten years of their service at least, should be known as assistant judges and magistrates and work in both civil and criminal branches of the inferior service at one time or other. Later on they would become Additional District and Sessions Judges and then pass on to the superior posts. There should be a provision for the strict supervision of the judiciary, and the judicial work of the District Judge should be reduced to a minimum to enable him to devote sufficient time for this purpose. The recruitment of Bengal Civil Service men should rest with the Member in charge of the Judicial Department, i.e., the local Government. But the supervision and control of the whole Judicial Service should be vested, in the High Court, though owing to the peculiar political condition of the province, there should be a close and constant consultation between the High Court and the Executive Government. And all orders of posting and promotion should be subject to the final sanction of the local Government.

Now, Sir, before I resume my seat, permit me to repeat again, that the matter of the separation of functions has been kept hanging so long, so many high officials, and important non-official bodies have made weighty pronouncements on it, that the Government can burke it no longer if it really intends to carry out the wishes of the people. To prove its sincerity and determination, the Government should at once make a definite pronouncement on the subject and proceed to elaborate details from a practical and economic point of view.

The following resolution standing in the name of Maulvi Hamid-ud-din Khan was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn :—

"This Council recommends to the Government that the recommendations of the Committee for the separation of judicial and executive functions be put into practice at an early date and a provision be made in the next budget to give effect to them."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I move that this Council recommends to the Government that immediate effect be given to the scheme of complete separation of the executive and judicial functions in the administration of Bengal as recommended by the Special Committee in their report published under Government Resolution No. [illegible]A., dated the 24th November, 1922.

It is not necessary that I should deliver a lengthy speech on this subject. This question was raised by me along with others in April, 1921, when it was discussed at great length, and from what I understood from the speech of the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler, I think there was practically no objection on the part of Government to accept this principle and take action upon the considered opinion expressed by a Committee. This is what he said—

The essential theory underlying the request to separate executive and judicial functions is that the magisterial authority should not be subject to interference and control by executive authority and that theory is one which I may say at once the local Government frankly and freely admit.

Later on he said—

We want an authoritative pronouncement of experienced men as to how separation can be carried out, assuming it to be decided upon. How would they propose to ensure the adequate supervision of magisterial work, the proper training of the magistracy and the efficient disposal of business on both sides? What will it mean in offices, buildings, and establishment? Given that information we should be in a position to deal with the matter far more satisfactorily than is the case at present.

He expressed a desire that a Committee for this purpose should be appointed and should be presided over by a High Court Judge———

Mr. PRESIDENT: This is all ancient history, Kishori Babu—your dwelling upon the appointment of a Committee and its being presided over by a High Court Judge. Please come to the present.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: What I mean is that what Sir Henry Wheeler desired has been done. A committee appointed by Government and presided over by a High Court Judge and consisting of representatives of the people and Executive Officers of the Government submitted its report about a year ago, but, Sir, I fail to see why there should be any delay in taking action upon its recommendations. Of course, one thing is wanting, namely, the opinion of the High Court. I

do not know if it has been received or not. At any rate, Sir, I do not know why there should be any delay in taking action upon the report of the Committee.

When I appeared before the Committee as a witness I suggested that if the District Officers were relieved of their judicial work they could devote more time to the superintendence of the police, and in that way a material saving could be effected, but I was told by the Hon'ble Mr. Greaves that this question was not within the terms of reference to the Committee. I think, Sir, that it is unforunate that this aspect of the question was beyond the purview of the Committee. It ought to have been done. Then the Committee might have been able to give their opinion as to how best the services of the District Officer could be better utilized, and how the expenditure could be minimized. But if it was not considered than it may be considered now. The report of the Committee is practically unanimous and Government should not waste any more time in giving effect to its recommendations.

A Retrenchment Committee was appointed by Government to suggest reductions in expenditure to tide over the deficit of this Government, but this aspect of the question was unfortunately not put before it for consideration. They could have considered along with others, this question also, namely, how much time the executive head of a district could devote to the police work if he were relieved of his judicial functions. I, for one, at any rate, do not want that any elaborate arrangement should be made. I rather think that action should be taken upon the suggestion submitted by Greaves' Committee. This suggestion is that if their recommendations be given effect to, the recurring expenditure might be a little over Rs. 4,00,000. The High Court is of opinion that at most it may be Rs. 6,00,000, or Rs. 7,00,000. The Kumar Sahib thinks that it may be even Rs. 9,00,000. I do not think it will be so much. I am rather of opinion that this matter should be considered on the lines suggested by the Greaves' Committee. If this is done, I believe, this long-standing grievance will be remedied. Since the Government has accepted the principle of the separation of the two functions, I humbly submit that there should not be any further delay in taking action in this matter, even if it be not possible to make any great saving in the expenditure on the Police Department. If the magistrate is relieved of his judicial work, I, for myself, believe that there will be ample time for him to devote to police work, and if my suggestion is carried out, I do not think so many police officers will be necessary—at least half their number can be safely reduced.

My idea is that if the Police Department is supervised by the officers of the Indian Civil Service, there will be real improvement in that department. In that way, a beginning can be made for retrenchment also. Since the Government has accepted the principle, I think they should no longer hesitate to take action upon the report of the Committee.

With these remarks, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that this Council recommends to the Government that the scheme contained in the report of the Committee appointed to elaborate a practical working scheme for the separation of the executive and judicial functions in the administration of Bengal, as modified in the first part of the note of dissent of Raja Manmatha Nath Ray Choudhury of Santosh, be given effect to without delay.

During the budget discussions, I expressed my astonishment that no provision had been made for giving effect to the scheme for the separation of the executive and judicial functions. Even this pointed reference was not able to draw out the Hon'ble Member's views on the subject. I am, therefore, glad to have this opportunity of pressing the Government for a clear declaration not only of their policy but of any practical scheme that they may have elaborated regarding this most necessary, most far-reaching, and long demanded administrative reform, without which the spirit of the Reforms in the new Government remains absolutely stultified. The spirit of autocracy, which is inherent in the present system of district administration, has long outlived the transition period for which it might have been created, and it is more than time enough that justice was enshrined in a new temple, free from all considerations other than the dispensation of true and impartial justice. Government members have often taken us to task for daring to charge the Government with a lack of initiative in administrative reform. What are we to say of a Government, one of whose members takes pride in being the author of a treatise on the separation of judicial and administrative functions, which has yet remained inactive, in spite of the incentive of a resolution passed by an overwhelming majority of this Council nearly two years ago, and in spite of the elaborate practical scheme outlined in the report of the Government-appointed Committee, more than a year ago? The report of the Greaves' Committee, the personnel of whcih was approved by Government, was signed on the 30th January, 1922, and even to-day, we do not know what the Government thinks of it.

This report has been so long before the public that it would be useless to go into the detailed consideration of the scheme contained in it. I shall only content myself with mentioning the broad points. The three broad principles laid down by this Committee in framing the scheme are—

Firstly, that the separation should be as complete as possible;

Secondly, that it should disturb existing conditions as little as possible; and

Thirdly, that so far as consistent with efficiency, any increase of cost should be minimised as far as possible.

I venture to think that none will dispute that the first and the third are sound principles, but it is evident that the Committee's refusal to disturb the existing conditions, has landed them in a recurring cost of nearly Rs. 4,50,000, which, in these days of financial stringency, is sure to be paraded before the Council by the Government member as something against the working out of the scheme.

The main feature of the scheme is that the hearing of appeals from magistrates with second and third class powers should, in future, take place, not before the District Officer or his subordinate, but before the District Judge or some purely judicial officer empowered in that behalf. The inspection and the responsibility and efficient working of criminal courts should also be managed in a similar way. Then, there are some methods of recruitment and division of work which have been elaborated, and lastly, they recommend that the High Court should exercise the same control over the magisterial staff as they now do over the civil staff.

The Committee were unanimous in recommending the above scheme. But there was difference of opinion regarding the trial of cases under the preventive sections of the Criminal Procedure Code. The majority recommend that the powers of the District Officers and those under him should be modified as follows:—

In ordinary cases under sections 107, 108, 109, and 110, when the District Officer requires a person to show cause, the proceedings shall be sent for trial before a Judicial Officer, but in cases of emergency which arise under these sections and when immediate action is necessary, it shall be open to the District Officer and those empowered to act under these sections themselves to make orders, but when they make such orders they shall state their reasons in writing and an appeal against the orders shall lie to the District and Sessions Judge. They, however, say that all cases under section 110 should be tried locally as at present. Then, there is provision for the modification of section 137. The hearing of the proceedings under sections 145 and 147, shall be before a judicial officer, but initiation of proceedings and the power to make provisional orders under the last proviso of section 145(4) remaining as at present with the District Officer and those under him.

Raja Manmatha Nath Ray Choudhury is, however, of opinion that the hearing of such cases should always take place before a judicial officer, but he would allow the executive officers to retain the powers of initiating or drawing up proceedings under these sections. And in case the Government think that in the interest of law and order, the executive officers should attend themselves to make orders under sections 107, 108, 109, and 110 in cases of emergency, he recommends that such orders should be passed only by District Officers and Subdivisional Officers and should be conditional orders subject to revision by District Judge and Subdivisional Magistrates, respectively. The recommendation of Raja

Manmatha Nath Ray Choudhury is clearly a logical corollary to the first principle laid down by the Committee, viz., that the separation of judicial and executive functions should be as complete as possible. And it is apparent that the majority also felt this and recommended, not without some reluctance, the foregoing provisions as a sort of compromise, when faced with the executive bogey of law and order. I cannot understand how law and order can be jeopardise if orders under the preventive sections be passed by judicial officers. Since the initiation of the proceedings are left to the executive, they can, in case of emergency, get an emergent order from a judicial officer. This will go far to eliminate chances of miscarriage of justice, due, perhaps to unconscious *zid* and bias on the part of the executive of which instances are unfortunately not in frequent. And a single case of such miscarriage of justice brings more discredit to the Government than perhaps a dozen petty riots, for after all, good Government is only possible when broad-based on the bed-rock of justice. Law and order should no longer be synonymous with irresponsible autocracy. This, in s[illegible] the scheme that I recommend to the Government to give immediate effect to. I do not say that this is a perfect scheme. I do not say that this cannot be improved upon. As a matter of fact, my friend, the Kumar Sahib, has elaborated a typical scheme of his own, keeping in view the interest of the landlords in the forefront. I, myself, have a scheme of my own up in my sleeves where the cost will be minimized by making the District the Subdivisional Officers the heads of the Police, doing away with the present Superintendents and Deputy Superintendents. If, in place of Additional Judges, appeals from Second Class Magistrates are heard by selected provincial service men, if the excise work is taken up by the Executive, as suggested by the Retrenchment Committee, when the Treasury work, both in district and subdivisional towns, is taken up by the branches of the Imperial Banks, much economy may, indeed, be effected. A greater Indianization and a larger provincialization of the services, may also tend for economy. But, as I said before, we will not fight for perfect schemes to-day. If we have to wait for a perfect scheme, I am afraid, we shall have to wait till doomsday. The country has been crying hoarse for this reform. Men like Romes Chandra Dutt, Sir Richard Garth, and many others who laboured for it have passed away. There are others who, though happily still with us, are sitting on Government benches to-day. I appeal to them—I ask them how much longer are they going to tolerate this dual personality of the Prosecutor and the Judge? Is it not worse than the dual personality of the learned Dr. Jekyll and the debauchee Mr. Hyde, which sometimes leads to tragic consequences? The Committee has submitted a fairly workable scheme, and even if it does mean an increase of recurring cost, I, for one, would be glad to vote that cost, feeling confident that with the practical working of the scheme and its gradual improvement, the increase in cost

would come down to nothing. It is time that the Government should cease to sit still, like a timid child before its first plunge. Let it make up its mind to take the plunge and it would find itself a cleaner and healthier body, after it has been through it.

The following resolution standing in the name of Babu Annada Charan Dutta was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn :—

"This Council recommends to the Government that early steps be taken to give effect to the scheme of separation of judicial and executive functions in Bengal on the lines of the recommendation made by the Greaves Committee of 1921 with or without necessary modifications in details, and that some preliminary provision for the same be made in the coming budget for 1923-24."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that this Council recommends to the Government that early steps be taken to inaugurate the scheme for the separation of judicial and executive functions in the province as suggested by the Greaves Committee.

The Shah Sahib spoke in Bengali in support of his resolution. The translation of his speech is as follows :—

During the Hindu rule in India, judicial and executive functions were performed separately. During the Mussalman rule also the same practice was in vogue. The East India Company began by taking the grant of Dewani from the Emperor of Delhi in 1765, and the administration of criminal justice was left in the hands of the officers of the Nawab Nazim of Bengal. Under the British Administration, however, as the judicial and executive functions are not separated, the result is palpable. Dissatisfaction prevails in the land. It is not within my power to portray the real position of affairs. As a matter of fact the system is nothing but a one-man rule.

When we draw a comparison between the executive officers and the justice administered by them we are really surprised. The justice administered by them is not justice in the truest sense of the term, it is but a maladministration of justice. I have nothing to say against the judicial officers of the Government. These officers are directly under the High Court, and true justice can be expected in their hands to a certain extent. The executive officers on the other hand are made up of different metal. They are allowed to mix freely with the people of this country and even go so far as to accept invitations from the zamindars and influential men of their districts. Some of these officers even entertain rancour and hatred towards those who are not friendly with them. Even it is not safe for a member of the Legislative Council to express his own independent views if the District Officer is not favourably

disposed towards him. His position may be jeopardized. I say this from personal experience.

Instances are not wanting to show that the District Judges deliver judgment in a tone which is not so objectionable as the judgment which the District Magistrates pronounce which is generally couched in a tone of censure. The judicial officers are learned and cool tempered, whereas the executive officers are far from being so. So any independent criticism of the action of these judicial officers does not render the critic to become an eyesore to them.

We cannot expect any redress of a wrong from the District Officers, and if any representation is submitted to the higher officers, it does not receive adequate attention in their hands. Even if any question is put in the Council in regard to the travelling by a member in a lower class although he draws double first class, it is supplied either with a very vague answer or disallowed on some ground or other. Sir, we are so much at the mercy of these executive officers simply because of the fusion of the two functions, that we have to refrain from participating in any function which has the slightest possibility of displeasing them. Under these circumstances, I support the resolution.

Mr. DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (Babu Surendra Nath Ray): This question of the separation of the judicial and executive functions has been before the country for a very long time. Mr. Manmohan Ghose, the well-known criminal lawyer of his time, wrote on the subject, and if my memory serves me right, I think it was Sir Harvey Adamson who, as the Home Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, formulated a scheme which found favour not only with a large number of my countrymen but also with some of the Government officials. But we are not now concerned with the scheme of Mr. Manmohan Ghose or that of Sir Harvey Adamson. Here in Bengal, the Government appointed a committee with one of the senior Judges of the High Court as President and their report has been before us and before the Government for a considerable length of time. It is, therefore, meet and proper that Government should give effect to the recommendations as embodied in that report with such modifications as the Government might think proper. We have got a District Judge in every district in charge of the judiciary. We have got a District Collector [illegible] in charge of the revenue as also for the preservation of law and [illegible] his district. I really cannot understand why, when there is an important personage like the District Judge as head of the judiciary, the District Magistrate should also be resposible for some portion of the administration of justice in the district. Let him remain what he is—the trusted custodian of the public exchequer and let the District Judge remain in sole charge of the judiciary and remain at the head of the administration of justice,

whether civil or criminal. As District Judge he has to hear all criminal appeals except appeals against the judgments of magistrates exercising second or third class powers are heard by deputy magistrates with powers of a magistrate of the first class or by District Magistrates. I think, Sir, it would be judicious on the part of the Government to make the District Judge solely responsible for the administration of justice in his district both civil and criminal.

Then again, Sir, arguments may be put forward against the proposal of the separation of the judicial and executive functions to the effect that Government is now passing through a great financial crisis and that, if effect is given at present to the recommendations of the Greaves Committee, a sum of Rs. 4,00,000 or Rs. 5,00,000 would be required for the purpose. But I think a sum of Rs. 4,00,000 or Rs. 5,00,000 can never stand in the way of Government from giving effect to the recommendations of the Committee. Let the scheme be given effect to in at least some of the districts in the first year and let us see how it works and what it costs. That will not cost Rs. 4,00,000 or Rs. 5,00,000. Government by taking that step will meet with the wishes of the people and also satisfy a large number of my educated countrymen. With these words I support the resolution of Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I beg to support the demand for the immediate carrying out of the recommendations of the Government Committee for the separation of the judicial and executive functions. This Council passed a resolution to that effect. Government gave effect to that resolution and appointed a Committee presided over by so distinguished a Judge as the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Greaves. That Committee has made its report. Why should there be any delay in giving effect to the recommendations of that Committee? If there is one thing which the people of this country feel more than any other it is this vicious system by which justice has been polluted in this country. Sir, I say this demand is universal in Bengal. Is there any man who is opposed to it? I say there is no such man. Why should not the Government give effect to this universal demand of the people? Sir, as I said before, thousands of men have suffered grievous injustice in consequence of this vicious system. The fountain of justice has been polluted and no man's honour is safe—no man's liberty is safe. Why should not the Government accede to the wishes of the people in this matter? An eminent English Judge who was appointed to preside over this Committee has recommended that this should take place immediately. I venture to say in no country in the world, however autocratic the Government might have been, would this demand not have been acceded to. Now, Sir, what are the difficulties in the way? The Committee has placed the preventive sections of the Criminal Procedure Act under the jurisdiction of the Magistrate. Why should the Government or any other person be anxious

that the administration of ordinary justice be not placed under the judiciary of the country? Why should it be under the Executive? There is no reason—no conceivable reason—why this should be so. Now the only question that remains to be settled is the question of finance. Those gentlemen who have supported this motion tought shy of these Rs. 4,50,000 which the Committee say will be required. Rupees 4,50,000 for the better administration of justice in Bengal is a very small sum. And I am surprised that any one here can object to it. Government can spend lakhs and crores of rupees to increase the salaries of their officers. We, the people of Bengal, are demanding pure justice for an expenditure of Rs. 4,50,000. Is that too much? Sir, our demand must be met. We have waited long for it—waited for over 50 years. Our heart is sick of waiting. We can wait no more and this demand must be met.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: For over half a century the question of the separation of the judicial and executive functions has agitated the public mind. It has been discussed *ad nauseam* in the Congress, in the Councils, in the press, and on the platform. The anomaly of the present system is admitted on all hands; the evils it gives rise to are not denied; the necessity for a change is conceded in principle and yet nothing is done. At one time the change was opposed on the ground of possible loss of prestige. Now the cry is increased cost. Most people who have thought over the matter hold the view—a view which I share that the separation can be carried out without any substantial increase in expenditure. But even if the separation involves some additional cost, it must be faced. Let us not keep the question hanging any longer—let us give effect to a practical scheme without any further delay. One thing, however, is essential. The separation must be complete and absolute. All officers of the Government exercising judicial powers must be brought under the control of the High Court in respect of their pay, prospects, and transfer. The present system is far, very far, behind the times. We must end it at once.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: The several resolutions that have been moved demand that the scheme contained in the report of the Greaves Committee be given effect to. The whole country is expecting that Government should take early steps to give effect to the scheme. I am not concerned now, Sir, to give you or to give the Council the ancient or modern history of the question that was raised, raised from time to time for the last fifty years. Are we to be told, when the report is ready, that Government are not at present inclined to give effect to it? What for? Is it on account of financial difficulty for Rs. 5,00,000 or Rs. 3,00,000? If that be the argument, the result will be that the question will stand over for years and years, and the country will not have the benefit of that scheme for which it contended from time to time.

It is high time for Government to speak straight whether they are prepared to give effect to the scheme or not. Say "No," we are satisfied with it: say "Yes," and give effect to it. That is the position which we want to take up. If Government says "No," then it will surprise the whole country because every moment the country is expecting the separation of the judicial and executive services. Hopes have been given and hopes are entertained, and if we are told that no provision can be made in this year's budget, then the whole question will be allowed to stand over for years and years.

Mr. F. E. E. VILLIERS: While agreeing in general with the principle of the resolutions under discussion, I feel myself unable to subscribe to the opinion put forward by Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray to the effect that until the findings of the Greaves Committee are given effect to, the whole of the Reforms will be jeopardized. Nor indeed can I agree with the idiotic extravagances of Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur when he says that thousands are being ruined by the travesty of justice which results from the combination of the two functions in the same person. I cannot agree with this absurd extravagance. At the same time I do feel this and feel it strongly. At the request of this House and as a result of the demand made by this House and the province at large, the Government appointed the Committee. The Committee sat, it cost money from the public exchequer, it cost those who sat on it many days of time and brain work, and having come to a finding on the question, I do think that it is up to Government to give a perfectly definite and clear expression of their views as to what their intentions are. It may be that under the existing financial stringency Government find themselves in a position whereby they cannot give immediate effect to the findings of the Committee, but at least it is up to them to give us some satisfaction as to what their intentions are and when it is likely that these intentions can be put into effect, and it is therefore that I subscribe to the views of those who demand a clear expression of the views of Government.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: There is a general demand from all sides and from all sections of the people for the separation of executive from judicial functions. Formerly the opposition came from the point of view of loss of prestige. Now that has been given up and the present point is economy; but when we find there have been extravagances of expenditure in other branches—in other directions—there is no reason, why Government should fight shy in giving effect to this one thing for which there is a general demand and on which the people have expressed their opinion in unequivocal terms. The system of honorary magistrates, as introduced in this country, is a very popular one and seeing the effect of that, the Retrenchment Committee has recommended that there should be honorary munsifs. But there are people who object to it

on the ground that the best men of the country do not come forward as honorary magistrates, and therefore, the system of honorary munsifs will not succeed. They point out that men of independent spirit cannot serve as honorary magistrates so long as they are subject to the dictatorial command of the Deputy Magistrate. As soon as the separation of executive from judicial functions is effected, I venture to say that a large number of men—there has been a large increase of educated men in the country—will come forward to serve as honorary magistrates and the prestige of that class of officers will increase. There are a large number of pleaders in the mufassal who do not practise in criminal courts and they may very well do as honorary magistrates; but they do not agree to serve as honorary magistrates, because they think that they may have to do things whereby they may have to compromise themselves in order to avoid some situation that may occur in relation to the District Magistrate or other Executive Officers. If this separation is effected large number of pleaders who do not like to serve will come forward to work as honorary magistrates. Professors, teachers, traders, etc., in the mufassal will agree to serve as honorary magistrates. They will be able to dispense justice without any hinderance. Any increase of expenditure to give effect to this separation will be compensated by a large number of honorary magistrates who will be quite prepared to serve and relieve the District Officers of their judicial work.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi ABDUS SALAM: I have had many years' experience in the judicial and executive services, and I have never been able as yet to appreciate the great importance that is attached to the separation of judicial and executive functions. I think it is not the system which is to blame but it is the men who are to blame. If the men of the subordinate judiciary are honest and God-fearing men, willing to deal out justice, the function that is divine, I do not see why they should be partial in the dispensation of justice. I know in my own career of 32 years I have had some difficulties, but I never found those difficulties standing in the way of my dispensing justice, and therefore, I do not attach that undue importance to the principle of the separation of judicial and executive functions. If right men are selected to sit on judicial benches, these difficulties will be minimized. We have been treated to a bit of history by Shah Syed Emdadul Haq that in the olden days of Bengal there was the Kazi system. The Kasis are now abused and thought to be not human beings but caricatures of human beings. I can tell you, however, the story of a Kazi in olden days during Moslem Rule in Bengal, who in spite of the grimaces of his sovereign dealt out justice, not to somebody else, but to the King himself; he decided against the King in order to do justice to a poor old woman. That was the sort of man you should have on the judicial bench. Of course, there are people who do not give up their paltry self-interests for the sake of

justice, but that is no reason why Government should not attempt to select right men and God-fearing men. Even in the independent profession you will find men, who, although they are unhampered by any vicious system, would still be found to demean themselves, for the sake of paltry baubles, such as titles or other petty favours. It all depends on the men. If you have right men in the judicial service, no matter what the system might be, they will do their duty in the same way as honest men in the executive or other services will do theirs. I, therefore, do not attach undue importance to the principle of the separation of judicial and executive functions. It is not a fact, as Shah Syed Emdadul Haq has said, that formerly in Bengal criminal justice was combined with civil justice. We had in olden days the Sadar Nizamat Adalat which dispensed and controlled criminal justice and the Sadar Diwani Adalat which limited itself to dealing out and supervising civil justice. Then there were other Revenue courts. The proposal now is to combine supervision of civil justice and the criminal justice in the District Judge, but in that case I am afraid he will hardly find time to closely supervise the work of all the subordinate judiciary with the result that the poor and weak will suffer and groan under oppression. Justice is justice, and the chief thing is that proper men should be selected to dispense justice. Men matter more than systems for dispensing justice.

Rai PYARI LAL DOSS Bahadur: The question of the separation of judicial and executive functions has been agitating the public mind for more than a quarter of a century and it is a cause of grave disappointment to find that the day of its accomplishment is receding further and further. The thief-catcher shall not sit in judgment over the thief, is a well-known principle, and it has been endorsed by all systems of law. I, therefore, submit that this principle shall be given effect to in all directions and to its utmost length. The Committee appointed for the purpose have not gone to the length to which separation is possible and desirable, and although they recommend that separation should be as complete as possible, they retain some important judicial powers in the District Magistrate or District Officer as they call, in cases of emergency. Under the preventive sections of the Criminal Procedure Code, the words "in cases of emergency" are indefinitely wide and vague, and I apprehend, they may be defined and put in operation according to the preconceived notions of the District Officer.

Sir, cases are on record, where peaceful and respectable citizens were hauled up before Magistrates under the preventive sections of the Criminal Procedure Code, for no other earthly reason than taking part in public or political movements not to their liking. The retention of these judicial powers, under the preventive sections of the Criminal Procedure Code, namely, sections 107, 108, 110, and 114, may, in cases of over-zealous officers, be a source of oppression to the innocent and may often lead to miscarriage of justice. I, therefore, submit that all

judicial powers be withdrawn from Executive Officers and be vested in Judicial Officers—as suggested in the able note of Raja Manmatha Nath Ray Choudhury. With these words, I beg to submit that the resolution of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta be given effect to as early as possible.

Babu DEBI PROSAD KHAITAN: I cannot understand how the Government can further delay the separation of the judicial from the executive. This matter has engaged the attention not only of the public but also of the Government for a large number of years, and ultimately the Government appointed a Committee presided over by a Judge of the High Court to go into the whole matter. That Committee has now gone into the whole matter and submitted a report. It is very unfortunate that the Government has not yet, so far as we know, taken any steps to execute the scheme formulated in that report. Sir, when the Committee was appointed by Government itself, we all thought that after that Committee reported the Government would not need the passing of another resolution in this Council before taking steps. Now that this resolution has been brought forward, I think it will not only be passed but that Government will cheerfully accept it and take active steps in the direction of separating the judicial from the executive without further delay. This matter has so often been discussed and in so many different ways that there is hardly any room for further discussion of the general principle of the separation of the judicial from the executive. It is accepted by everybody that the ideal way of administering justice is not to place the administration of justice in the hands of those who have got executive powers. In these circumstances, I hope the Government will accept this resolution and take active steps without further delay to execute the report that has been presented by the Greaves Committee.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: So far as the principle is concerned I believe that when this matter came for discussion some time ago in this Council, the principle was in a way accepted by Government. In fact, what I understood from the discussion at that time was that the principle was practically conceded. The question was simply a question of giving effect to that principle as far as possible in view of the present administrative system of this province. The number of resolutions which have been brought forward would give an idea as to how this principle should be given effect to. The various suggestions given by various bodies regarding this very matter, the recommendations of the Committee—all these things would go to show that the matter is not an easy matter. The principle can be very easily accepted, but when we have got to apply it to the practical administration of the country then we feel the difficulty, and therefore, we all find that most of the members who tried to make any definite suggestion almost differ in material points. Therefore, the position seems to be absolutely clear that time is necessary and

also a review of the whole administration is necessary before any feasible scheme can be given effect to. It will require some time, and I hope that Government, so far as this matter is concerned, would accept the principle and would try to give effect to this as early as possible, regard being had of course to the efficiency of the administration of justice for which we want this. We all want this separation in order that we may have a pure administration of justice, but in our hurry to give effect to any particular scheme, we may not lose sight of the very thing for which we are fighting. There have been so many schemes that I for myself am not able to support any particular scheme. One man suggests that the posts of Additional District Judges should be abolished and there should be Assistant Sessions Judges recruited mostly from the Deputy Magistrates. Now that would necessarily involve to a certain extent a detailed examination as regards the administration of civil justice. For example, if the posts of Additional District and Sessions Judges are abolished and in lieu thereof we get Assistant Sessions Judges, will the District Judges be in a position to give sufficient criminal work to the Assistant Sessions Judges? Certainly not: they will have to do a certain amount of civil work as well. If the Assistant Sessions Judges are required to do the sessions work and are to be recruited from the Deputy Magistrates, the position will be that they will find great difficulty in hearing regular appeals from subordinate judges as well as from munsifs. There is another suggestion of amalgamating the civil and criminal powers in the same man. Some people suggest that the same officer should exercise criminal as well as civil powers. It would be very difficult for a man trained specially in civil law just like a munsif to do ample justice to what is called a trial of a criminal case. In fact the angle of vision is quite different. In a criminal case what the prosecution has got to prove is that the accused is guilty beyond doubt, and the Judge always looks from that particular standpoint. If there is any doubt, the benefit of that doubt is given to the accused. That is not the standpoint of the munsif. He has got the written statement of the defendant and he has got to look to all the probabilities of the case and not merely to give the benefit of doubt to the defendant. The training of a Deputy Magistrate is essentially different from that of a munsif. The question is so very intricate and so very difficult that by a mere fiat it cannot be given effect to at once. Some time is necessary, and I hope Government will accept this principle and will try to give effect to it as early as possible, keeping in mind the fact that the only thing that is wanted is the administration of justice should be improved.

MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): We are dealing with some six resolutions which propose to put into immediate effect the recommendations of the Committee presided over by Mr. Justice Greaves, which was appointed

to elaborate a scheme for the separation of judicial and executive. Three of these motions propose to put the Greaves Committee's recommendations into immediate effect without modification. One of them suggests certain modifications, and in regard to these modifications it is quite obvious, on a superficial reading of the resolution, that the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee have a very considerable bearing on them. The mover of that resolution in his speech introduced other modifications and propounded an entirely new scheme. Another resolution asks us to throw over the Greaves Committee on one important point and accept the recommendations of the minority report, and one resolution sensibly asks us to make whatever modifications are necessary.

Well, Sir, what is the position of this question of the separation of judicial and executive. I am not going into the merits of the question. At this period the merits are beside the point, but I do wish to make it quite clear that I in no way accept some of the statements that have been made in this House this afternoon regarding the terrible consequences of the present system and the absolute lack of security of life and honour. We have most of us been lucky in this respect so far, if the position is really as has been described. The fact that this question is a very old one and there is a mass of literature on the subject surely at all events induces the opinion that there is something to be said on the other side. It is not a matter which, as we have been told this afternoon, is so self-evident that not a single soul in Bengal will venture to question its necessity. If you take authorities, the authorities on either side are very evenly balanced. But, Sir, this is beside the question now. The principle of the separation Government have accepted in what the Kumar says were very halting accents, and Kishori Babu says were trumpet tones. Sir Henry Wheeler in his speech pointed out what the present position was. We do not wish to discuss the merits of the case, but we do admit that there is a very strong feeling in favour of it and we are out now to get some definite practical scheme which will give effect to the wishes of the country. I should like at this point to refer to what the Kumar Sahib said in his opening speech and what various other members more or less insinuated. The Kumar made the accusation that Government are deliberately burking this question because certain high officials are opposed to it. Well, Sir, if the Kumar means that certain officials with long administrative training, with experience of the administration of the province, have, I may almost say, grave misgivings as to the eventual consequences of this separation, then, Sir, I plead guilty. But when the Kumar goes on in a somewhat ungenerous spirit and attributes those misgivings to the desire to maintain official position, whether my position or the position of the District Magistrate, I entirely repudiate it. There are several experienced members of Government service in Bengal—and I would go outside Government service, too—who have grave misgivings but those misgivings are based on their desire to avoid a breakdown of criminal justice in Bengal—a breakdown which

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will have immediate and heavy effects upon the poor and the weak. The rich and the strong will not feel these difficulties. Therefore, Sir, I hope that the Kumar will see he has been a little ungenerous in attributing motives to those who have some misgivings as to the consequences of the separation.

Then, Sir, the accusation that has been brought against Government mainly this afternoon is that of unreasonable delay in tackling the question. Well, Sir, the case has been debated for over a century and even to-day the Kumar himself has produced a new scheme, a scheme whereby he does away with the Subdivisional Officer—and I do not see why he should not go further, and probably he will have to go further and do away with the District Magistrate—and in his place he puts the Superintendent of Police. He has the courage to admit the implication that under the separation of judicial and executive the power of the police must increase. He recognizes that position and wishes to take it to its logical conclusion by giving all the power to the police eliminating the civil power entirely. I do not propose to go into the merits of either that scheme or the scheme of eliminating the Superintendent of Police and giving the District Magistrate control of the police or any other suggestion, but I do think that the Council will agree that the fact that these suggestions are made even at this stage—as far as I know, the Kumar Sahib's suggestion has never been put forward before—does give some excuse to Government for not rushing through the details of the scheme. What are the reasons for the delay? It is perfectly true that we received this report a year ago. It was then printed and we examined it last hot weather. The first thing that struck me in examining this report was that there was no definite opinion of the High Court. The Committee proposed to place the whole of the criminal judiciary practically under the High Court; it also proposed to increase the work of the Judges who are at present under the High Court, but there was no definite opinion of the High Court in the report. I, therefore, thought it absolutely necessary to address the High Court on the subject and did so at once. I also considered on examining the details of the scheme that the expenditure had been very much underestimated. I, therefore, directed that the estimates as to each district which had not so far been seen by the District Collector should be sent to each District Collector for definite examination and report on the staff proposed and the expenditure which they considered would be involved. We received these reports from the Collectors through the Commissioners towards the end of summer, i.e., during the rains. The High Court's reply we did not get till Christmas and the High Court have now stated that they are unable to give any opinion until they get a scheme worked out in detail placed before them, but they consider it perfectly clear that a very large increase of staff is required to carry out the Committee's recommendations.

What is the scheme which is now before Government? The essential elements are—(*i*) the hearing of appeals by a Judge; (*ii*) the inspection of courts by a Judge and the responsibility for the efficient working of all the criminal courts in the district and the due despatch of a criminal business to be placed upon the Judge; (*iii*) the division of the present staff between the executive and the judicial; (*iv*) the future recruitment of that staff to be separate; and (*v*) the High Court to exercise the same control and supervision over magisterial staff as they do over the civil staff.

It is of the essence of the scheme that it cannot be put into force in two or three districts at first. It must be put into force over the province as a whole. You cannot have a separate judicial and executive staff for two or three districts; if we transfer our men on the judicial side from the Presidency Division where the separation is effected to the Burdwan Division where the scheme is not in force, they come again under the control of the wicked executive. If we are going to have a scheme we must have a scheme for the whole of Bengal. Before we can launch an experiment of this magnitude for the whole of Bengal, it is necessary for Government to go carefully into the details.

What are the difficulties in the way of putting a scheme immediately into effect? I put before the Council a few of the considerations on which Government have to come to a decision before they can start. In the first place before we can divide the existing staff between the executive and the judicial, we must know what are the prospects of both sides of the service. We cannot ask a man to choose the Committee say we should try and give him a choice as far as possible—before he knows what his prospects are going to be. Take only one point. At present there are six listed executive posts and six judicial posts. It is quite clear that men on the magisterial side cannot be appointed to executive posts where they will be under the thumb of the Executive Government. They must depend entirely on their prospects in the judicial side. This is going to seriously affect or alter the prospects of the whole of the judicial service. Secondly, what about pay? Are the magistrates and the executive to be on the same pay or are they to remain on their present pay? Before we come to any final conclusion, we must decide the action we are going to take on the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee which has suggested a retrenchment of pay of these services. Say, a magistrate will be on the same pay as he is at present. We will at once have the cry that the men doing criminal judicial work must have the same pay as the men doing civil judicial work. That is one difficulty we have got to face. Whether we are going to pay the criminal judiciary on the same lines as the civil judiciary. It is no good starting a service before we

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know how we are going to feed it. There the question of recruitment comes in. It is not an easy matter. I do not know if the members of this House have read the reports of similar committees in Bihar and United Provinces. They have all gone into the question of recruitment; they have found very great difficulties. It is all very well for the Committee to say that the service shall be under the High Court on the same lines as the present civil judiciary, but we must go further than that. At what age are we going to recruit? Are we going to recruit at the same age as the executive or the judicial officer? Are we going to insist on recruits having a B.L.? In what proportion are we going to recruit? Who is going to recruit them? Are they going to be recruited by a competitive examination as executive officers are? Or are they going to be recruited in the same way as Munsifs by the High Court? Incidentally—this is merely my personal opinion—I have always felt that there is a very great danger in placing on the High Court executive works of this kind. The High Court to my mind ought to have no extra judicial opinion and no extra judicial work. Difficulties have already arisen, as the Council is aware. The Council may decide for perfectly justifiable reasons that the recruitment to the service of Government shall be made on certain considerations of race, religion, or locality, and the Council may have full justification for their attitude in that respect. But the Council have no justification to my mind in telling the High Court that they must give due weight to these considerations. You have no right to ask this of the High Court, the highest judicial authority, which, as a judicial authority, can look to nothing but justice, the highest interest of justice as it is known in the law courts and not what is known as equity outside. Therefore, there is something very illogical to my mind—it is purely my own personal opinion—in requiring the High Court to do extra judicial work which will bring them into this awkward position.

When you have decided how you are going to recruit your men, how are you going to train them? This is another point to consider. With all deference to the Committee I think that they might have given us some help in the matter. They absolutely ignored the point. A perusal of the reports of the Bihar and United Provinces Committees will show that they had very great difficulty in coming to any conclusion on the point. Our own Committee say that the recruitment must be separate and that there must be no overlapping. The Bihar Committee have finally recommended that for the first six years the training shall be given for the executive and the judicial alternately three years on each side. The United Provinces Committee have laid down a very elaborate system of training which applies to the judicial and executive alike. We have got to remember that the separation of judicial and executive will have two effects. In the first place, it will deprive the executive officer of all judicial training and a judicial training is of the greatest

value to an executive officer in a great deal of the work that he has to do under Government. On the other side of the shield, it will deprive the Criminal Judge of all executive knowledge, of all knowledge of the lines on which Government is run, how the various Government departments are worked, and to a very large extent of touch with the people. Take the case of a graduate who is recruited to a Government service. He has spent the major portion of his time in a town for his education. He knows, I am told, very little of the mufassal and of the life of the people in the interior. For years past his one preoccupation has been the passing of the examination, getting a degree and finally sitting for the competitive examination. This is the case with a majority of the students. Are we prepared to allow these men untrained or without any further training to try criminal cases? As Mr. Syed Nasir Ali pointed out, civil justice and criminal justice are essentially different. In civil justice, the Judge sits on a bench and weighs in his hands the evidence handed up to him, sees which is heavier and decides. He is not required to go outside the evidence. Are we content that our Magistrates should try cases on this principle? The business of the Magistrate is to find out the truth and not to find out whether this man's evidence or that man's evidence is heavier. He has to find out what exactly happened to see that the innocent are not oppressed and the guilty do not escape.

The training of the criminal judiciary is to my mind one of the most important parts of the whole scheme. I cannot contemplate that Government should launch a scheme until they have come to a definite decision on that particular point. The next question is control of the criminal judiciary. The Committee say——

> We desire to emphasize the necessity of the inspection and supervision of the work of criminal courts being ordinarily carried out by the District and Sessions Judge himself. Unless this is done we think that there is grave risk that the criminal work of the district may deteriorate.

The actual inspection gives no trouble. It only requires the necessary time for a Judge to go and inspect courts in the district. As a matter of fact the Judges do not do much in the way of inspection of civil courts. We have constantly been asked to sanction the appointment of a special officer to inspect all subordinate civil courts on the ground that the Judges have no time to do it. In 1919 the courts of 13 subordinate and small cause court judges and 68 munsifs in Bengal were inspected. It will be remembered that this does not represent separate stations inspected because the stations that will be selected for inspection are those where there are, say, two small cause courts judges, and perhaps four or five munsifs. In 1920, 10 courts of subordinate and small cause courts judges and 83 munsifs were inspected. In 1921 courts of 14 subordinate and small cause courts judges and 75 munsifs were inspected. I think that the Council will agree that we shall not be satisfied with that amount of inspection of criminal courts. An annual inspection is not going to keep our criminal work up to the mark. You cannot inspect your criminal work merely by inspecting registers once

a year. What the Committee did was to ask the District Magistrate, how many hours a week do you spend on inspection? In most cases it is a very small amount of time. They then wrote to the District Judge of that particular district and said that the District Magistrates spent 60 hours a year or say 10 hours a year in inspecting criminal courts, what assistance do you want to enable you to spend a similar number of hours for your inspection? That is an absolutely wrong way to argue. The Magistrate's supervision is not exercised by inspection only. He has a dozen different ways of knowing what goes on in different courts. He is in constant touch with the Superintendent of Police. He has many departments under him. He is in constant touch with the public. People come to him on all sorts of business. He knows the work of the offices under him. He has different ways of knowing what is going on in his district. If anything goes wrong in a particular court he knows it very soon and sends for the case diary and records and puts it right. The Judge has none of these advantages. If a Judge is going to be content with inspecting the criminal courts once a year and saying "my responsibility is finished," I think that my misgiving as to the future of the separation will be amply justified. The Judge will be able to hear appeals; he will be able to animadvert on faults perhaps a couple of months after they have been committed; but he will never see a case which has been acquitted. The Bihar Committee were so impressed with that particular point that they insisted upon the Judge examining so many records every week not only of convictions but also of acquittals. In civil cases delays may be a hardship, or a series of wrong decisions may work injustice, but they will not cause a breakdown of law and order in anything like the way that a dilatory or a perversely acquitting criminal court will do in a district. The United Provinces Committee were impressed with the same danger and their way out of it was substantially to strengthen the prosecuting agency. They proposed to appoint junior pleaders practically in every court. That is not going to work for economy. Unfortunately our Committee, though they recognized the danger, have not given us any advice as to how it is to be avoided. This question of control and the question of training are to my mind the absolute crux of the whole question and until we have got some definite idea as to what we are going to do on these two points it is no good attempting to put into force any scheme. Judges must have definite duties laid upon them as to how they should exercise their control and they must not be left to the possibility of their sitting in courts and being content with hearing appeals and an inspection once a year. If the Judges do not take up the work which is now done by the Magistrate of keeping the criminal courts up to the mark then there will be a breakdown in every district.

The next point is the preventive powers. Each Committee has gone into that very fully and in every case they differ amongst the

decided on that, we shall have to go up to the Government of India to legislate. The Government of India will not attempt to legislate, I fancy, until they have the opinion of all the provinces.

[At this stage the Hon'ble the Member reached the time-limit but was allowed to speak.]

It is quite obvious that they cannot possibly deal with the revision of the Criminal Procedure Code first for one province and then in another six months for another province. They will have to wait for proposals from Madras, Bombay, and other provinces. When all the provinces have formally given the Government of India their views, the Government of India with the assent of the Legislative Assembly will make such alterations in the Code as they may think fit.

The last point is the question of cost. I have said that this cost has been very considerably underestimated and the Kumar Sahib has agreed with that. The Committee have framed their estimates of cost under three different heads—(*1*) extra cost owing to the transfer of appellate, revisional and inspection work to Judges; (*2*) extra cost owing to separation of staffs at headquarters; and (*3*) extra cost for the separation of the staff at subdivisional headquarters.

The cost of the extra staff under the first head is Rs. 1,54,750 recurring and of extra buildings Rs. 36,000. I had these figures examined very carefully. The Committee, taking the cost of transfer of appeals and control, based their estimates on the condition of the staff in September, 1921. Since then, there have been considerable alterations which affect their estimates. For example, at that time there was a temporary Additional Judge in Bakarganj and they said that we ought to make him permanent. We have already got rid of that temporary Additional Judge at Bakarganj, but if the Committee's suggestion is to be accepted, we will have to put in another Judge permanently and the cost would be Rs. 21,000. The Committee take credit for the abolition of two out of four additional magistrates owing to the scheme, and reckon the saving due to that abolition. We have already abolished two out of four additional magistrates so that the saving will not be available for them. That means an additional Rs. 24,000. Again, they have given no figures for the High Court, but they say that the extra cost of the work in the High Court can perhaps be met by a reduction in the Secretariat. I need not go into that now. The High Court in Patna asked for an Additional Judge. I cannot think that the High Court in Calcutta will be more moderate. I have already explained that their estimate of how many additional judges would be required is based on what I consider to be entirely a wrong principle. It is not a question of how many hours a Magistrate spends on criminal work and how many hours it will be necessary for a Judge to do the same work, but how we are going to

ensure the proper control of the criminal work. On that basis we estimate that at least three more Judges than the Committee allowed for will be necessary for this purpose of control.

Then coming to the second and third items, the Committee provide for 87 new appointments over the present sanctioned strength, or 61 over the strength approved by Government in 1921. They have forgotten to add any reserve for leave, training and deputation. This means another 28 and they will cost Rs. 1,68,000 more than they estimated. I need not weary the Council with actual details, but we have gone into this question of expenditure very carefully and I shall be happy to show these details to any member who would like to see them. Our estimate is that the non-recurring cost would come to Rs. 3¾ lakhs and the recurring cost would come to Rs. 15 lakhs or something like Rs. 9 lakhs over the Committee's estimate. We can start the scheme with some slight reduction of this extra cost, but I think that it is only fair to the Council before any step is taken to put the scheme into force that they should know what exactly the scheme involves. The present position is this. We have the Committee's report. It is not a definite and complete and clear-cut scheme which can be put into force at once. Government have to make up their mind on certain definite principles and must have definite and elaborated details of the scheme. That is where we are at the present moment. I confess that owing to retrenchments and budget, I have not been able to take up this file which has been lying on my table for the last six weeks, but when the budget is once over, I undertake to tackle the file and after this preliminary work is disposed of to have a definite scheme drawn up based on the recommendations of the Greaves' Committee showing in detail what the necessary steps are, what the rules would be, how we are going to recruit, and what are going to be the prospects and so forth, and then we will publish that and invite criticisms. Meanwhile we shall come to a conclusion as to the transfer of the powers and we shall ask the Legislative Department who have got rid of the Municipal Bill to consider the question of alterations in the laws of Bengal that will be necessary owing to the transfer of the powers of District Magistrates and they will frame a complete list of those which we shall forward to the Government of India as legislation will have to take place in the Legislative Assembly. That being the position, my natural impulse was to accept the resolutions but when I came to look at them I find that there is none of them that I can accept. The first one would commit Government to certain modifications in the direction of concentration of revenue and treasury work as far as possible in the district headquarters station. That I am not prepared to accept.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: If he has no objection to accept my resolution, I shall omit the last two lines of my resolution beginning with the words, e.g., "concentration of revenue. . . ."

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The resolution says that steps may be taken to give effect to the recommendations. I am not prepared to say that Government are going to accept every one of the details of the report. The other resolutions want provisions to be made in the next budget and so forth. I would suggest that the movers of these resolutions should be satisfied with my statement of the present position and my undertaking that the details of the scheme will be worked out in the ensuing hot weather and they should withdraw their resolutions.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Do I understand that the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson agrees to the Kumar's suggestions to omit the last two lines of his original motion?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: My position is that I could not agree to it if I would also thereby be pledged to accept the details of the Greaves' Committee Report.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Any member may object to this amendment being moved at this stage.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: It is, however, absolutely at the discretion of the President to allow any amendment at this stage; and there are instances in which official amendments have been allowed to be accepted in this House even though they were opposed by non-official members. I simply desire to change the wording of my resolution, but I do not go against its spirit. I crave your indulgence, Sir, to allow me to amend my resolution. There might be something objectionable in the other resolutions. It is open to the Council to allow my resolution being amended and I crave your permission to this being done.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Well, Kumar Sahib, I asked the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson whether he would be prepared to accept the resolution if the last two lines were omitted and he said that he could not accept it.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: Government may not accept the resolution even as amended. But is there any objection to my putting the motion in that amended form before the Council?

Mr. PRESIDENT: The position is that a member has objected to the moving of this amendment without notice and that objection prevails.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I understand that the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson has no objection to my resolution being put in the amended form before the Council.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I have no objection to the resolution being put in that form. I have already made my position clear. I do not accept the resolution even in that form, because it might be held to bind me to accept the details of the Greaves' Committee Report

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I may omit the last two lines if no member objects to it being done.

The last two lines were, by leave of the Council, omitted from the resolution.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Council will now adjourn for 15 minutes and after the adjournment, the Kumar Sahib will have the right of reply.

The Council adjourned for 15 minutes.

After the adjournment.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I must say, Sir, that the statement made by the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson is far from encouraging. I really expected a bolder and a more definite pronouncement from him. I must admit, however, that there is this redeeming feature in his speech that the Government practically accept the utility and the feasibility of the scheme; and it is now a question of time and money that lies between the scheme and its realization, or in other words, it is now a matter of deferred hope and not of absolute disappointment. Well, Sir, I must say that that is something. I fully realize the difficulties that lie in the way of giving immediate effect to the scheme, and you will see, Sir, that I have not made any such demand in my resolution. I may say that my resolution is the most harmless one that could have been brought before the Council, and I expected that the Government would accept the resolution with the amendment I proposed. I am surprised that the Hon'ble the Member in charge is unwilling to accept the principles underlying the Greaves' Committee Report. It was a Committee composed of men of the Government's own choice and selection and it was presided over by an Hon'ble Judge of the High Court and a senior member of the Government was also on it.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: May I rise to a point of order? I may state that I have never said that Government refuse to accept the principles of the Greaves' Committee Report.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I am very glad to hear that. When the Hon'ble the Member in charge was placed in a tight corner he spoke out.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Kumar Sahib should not make a personal attack of this nature. The Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson made a very clear and definite statement and the Kumar Sahib should not have put a construction of that kind on that statement.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: When I find that even though I want to omit the last two lines from the resolution, the Government do not want to accept it and persist in refusing it, I do not

know what else to say. The Government accept the principles of the Report but at the same time do not accept my resolution, I do not know what the Government mean. Now, Sir, the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson was himself a distinguished District Officer and naturally he has great confidence in the ability of the District Magistrates and so he thinks that they are more capable of detecting mistakes on the part of their subordinate officers than the Judicial Officers are. Well, Sir, there are some Judicial Officers here who, I think, will agree with me that this ability is not the monopoly of the executive officers alone.

I am also sorry to observe that the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson has found something novel in the suggestion that I made. Well, with the two big volumes of papers by his side, I expected a better knowledge of things from him—I say this without meaning any disrespect to him. There are some confidential papers with him to which I may not refer; but I will refer to one document which is public property. I will read an extract from the report of the Police Commission of 1861, and that extract will show that I did not make any novel suggestion. This is the extract:—

> As the organization becomes perfected and the (police) force effective for the performance of its detective duties, any necessity for the Magistrate to take any personal action ought to cease.

That is exactly what I have suggested and I do not know what novelty he found in it.

Then, Sir, the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson said that he had not had enough time to study the scheme or to perfect it, as he had the Retrenchment Committee Report, the Budget and so forth. Well, I hope the Council will agree with me in thinking that the Government lay themselves seriously open to the charge of inactivity by sleeping over the matter so long, and I do not think that I shall say anything more—as I may be called to order and so I shall leave something blank. (Hear, hear.)

If anyone tries to rouse the Government from their deep slumber, the Government blurt out incoherent words to the effect that they have not studied the scheme. They have not had time to do it, although the scheme has been before the Government for over a year. I do not know what the Government have been doing all this time. I do not think that I need go into the details over again which have been referred to by the Hon'ble the Member. But I may perhaps be forgiven when I say that he read out from a written speech which was prepared for him beforehand. But, Sir, in my opening speech, I have dealt with every point which he has raised, and I really expected that he would criticize me mercilessly, but in fact he has not done so. I think, therefore, that I have scored a point over him. I might say that no big thing would have ever been possible if we had waited for its perfection in every

detail. The Hon'ble the Member in charge is now quite perfect, but I am sure we could not have got in him such a perfect officer when he first came out to India. Well, Sir, the thing is that we ask you to give us a chance to make an experiment and to begin it in an imperfect state, as my friend, Mr. Dutta, has suggested. Sir, there is always a certain amount of risk in any new proposal that may be formulated. Although Mr. Stephenson may be lacking in something, he does not lack in statesmanship which lies in taking risks and in trying to avoid the risk in actual practice. The big Indian Reforms would have been impossible if doubt and hesitancy were allowed to have the upper hand. I hope, Sir, that Mr. Stephenson will still find it possible to overcome the difficulties, and as he has said, he has no quarrel with the Greaves' Committee Report, he will be able to accept my resolution as amended by the omission of the last two lines.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: May I rise to a point of order? I cannot allow the statement to go unchallenged. I never said that I have no quarrel with the Greaves' Committee Report.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I am glad to hear that he has a quarrel with the Greaves' Committee Report, and that is why I have brought forward this resolution.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Does the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson wish to say anything more?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I would just like to make a brief statement. I hope that the Council have understood my position better than the Kumar Sahib appears to have done. I think I have made my position clear to the House. I have no objection to any of these resolutions, provided that I am not thereby tied down to accepting on behalf of Government any detail or any particular proposal of the Greaves' Committee Report. The Government have already accepted the principle; and as I have already stated, we are working out the details.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I ask, Sir, that my resolution may be put first, and I think the Kumar Sahib has no objection to that being done.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am proposing to put Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray's resolution first to the vote.

The motion was then put in the following amended form and agreed to:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that steps be taken to give effect to the recommendations made in the Greaves' Committee Report on the separation of judicial from the executive functions in the

administration of the Presidency, with such modifications as may be conducive to greater economy and efficiency."

Mr. PRESIDENT: The motion which has been carried settles the fate of the other motions on the same subject.

Canning Branch Extension (E. B. R.).

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I move that this Council recommends to the Government that the Canning branch of the Eastern Bengal Railway be extended to its natural terminus 16 miles down to Kulti and that a branch line be made to Jaynagar-Mazilpore.

This resolution has been before this Council for two or three months. In the meantime Mr. Dey and the Hon'ble the Minister in charge have done all that could be done in this matter. I understand that the Hon'ble the Minister in charge will make a statement, and after he has done so, I shall withdraw my resolution.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri Khan Bahadur): With regard to an extension of the Eastern Bengal Railway from Port Canning to Kulti the only occasion on which this project had been put forward was in 1911, when the mover of the resolution, with certain other landlords and tenure-holders of the Sundarbans grants, submitted a petition to the officiating Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal praying that in view of the development of the grants and that as the railway to Port Canning had proved a profitable concern, an extension to Kulti might be constructed. The reply to the memorialists, after consultation with the local officers and the management of the Eastern Bengal Railway, was to the effect that there would not be sufficient traffic on the proposed extension to justify its construction, and Government did not, therefore, see any prospect of the project being seriously considered in the near future. The proposal has not since then been the subject of further investigation. With regard to the proposed extension from Magrahat to Jaynagar-Mazilpore of the Diamond Harbour line, I would inform the Council that after undertaking preliminary surveys of two alternative lines in the area lying to the south of Magrahat, the Railway Board in May, 1920, sanctioned a traffic reconnaissance survey of the two alternative lines, viz., one from Magrahat *via* Murrullapur, Mazilpore and Bistopur to Kharee and to Kulpi, and the other from Magrahat *via* Jaynagar and Lakhipur to Kakdwip, with a view to coming to a final decision in regard to the scheme of railway extension in this area.

Since the present resolution was put on the list, the matter has again been referred to the Railway Board, who have replied that the traffic reconnaissance surveys sanctioned by them in 1920 have not yet been taken up owing to scarcity of funds.

Until the result of those surveys is seen, it is not possible for the Railway Company or the Railway Board to say which line of railway should be constructed.

I think the mover will agree with me that it is not possible for me again to urge on the Railway Board the construction of any particular line in preference to any other, and I trust that he will withdraw his resolution.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Withdrawal of resolution.

The following resolution standing in the name of Munshi Amir Ali was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that the Foysonnessa girls' school of Comilla be raised to the status of a high English school, with a suitable boarding house for the students attached to it."

Foysonnessa Girls' School, Comilla.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that this Council recommends to the Government that the Foysonnessa girls' school be raised to the status of a high English school, with a suitable boarding house for students attached to it.

He delivered his speech in Bengali, a translation of which is as follows:—

About 50 years ago the school was established by the late lamented Nawab Foysonnessa. In 1909, the Government took up the management of this school, although previous to that it was managed and pecuniarily helped by the late Nawab. This institution has been split up into two branches, viz., the Kandiparh Middle English school and Bajrapur lower primary school. In the Kandiparh Middle English School 171 students have prosecuted their studies some time ago, and the number of students read in that school last year was 190. In the Bajrapur lower primary school, 67 students finished their course last year, and 64 was the number previous to that. Of the 171 stated above, 156 are Hindus, 12 Mussalmans, and 3 Christians. There are altogether 7 teachers in the middle English school, of whom 4 are members and the District Magistrate is an *ex-officio* member. The inspecting officers have expressed favourable opinions from time to time, and as a result of their inspecting notes, Government were inclined to convert this institution into a high school, but nothing has been done yet. According to the Government Rs. 70,000 or Rs. 80,000 is necessary for making this institution a high school, but to my mind, I think the work can be started on about Rs. 10,000. As it is a question of female education, I would earnestly draw the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in

charge, and request him to give every possible consideration to my resolution.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move, by way of amendment, that the following words be added at the end of this resolution, namely:—

> "and that the scheme be given effect to during the term of the present Council."

The history of this school is very simple. It has been provincialized and teaches up to the middle English standard. Some time ago, there was a very keen popular demand that this school should be raised to the Matriculation standard and Government was pleased to accept the scheme; an estimate was drawn up, and I think that the whole thing would cost something between Rs. 80,000 and Rs. 90,000. As a result of that scheme, a portion of land adjacent to the present site was acquired by Government; but I am sorry to find that the financial bugbear is staring Government in the face and that land has been lying fallow for more than 8 years. The interest, for these years, on the principal invested on the acquisition of the land, would have been sufficient to raise a boarding house on that piece of land. I understand that the present Government, pursuing the policy of the former Governments, are very eager to accept the principle of the Matriculation standard of the girls' school, but they would plead that the financial considerations are preventing them from giving effect to it. If I am not much mistaken, the scheme provided for very big and pucca buildings, but if the scheme is revised, and instead of big buildings, if we have tiled houses, as at present exists for the school, I am sure that the cost of the school would be much less—it may be even less than half of what has been estimated for. In view of this and as we hope to effect some retrenchment of the budget within the next 15 days, the Hon'ble the Minister should be able to provide some money by a supplementary demand in the next July session, so that a beginning may be made in the course of the present year. I hope that the work may be taken up in the present year. The scheme has already been hanging fire for an unduly long time. We can no longer be satisfied with empty promises.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter): I may say at the outset that I have every sympathy with this resolution. Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta has to some extent anticipated me. He knows very well the present financial position of Government, but with an inconsistency which is so natural to him he suggests expansion, although when it comes to the question of finding money for the expansion, he is always against the Government. I appreciate his attitude, but I do not appreciate his inconsistency. I am as

keen as any member of this House on the expansion of girls' education in this province, but I must look to the demand for girls' education, for boys' education, for primary education, and for secondary education all over the province. At the present moment, the House knows very well that we have not got money in this budget and we have not been able to provide anything for this school. However much I may sympathise with the object of this resolution I am not prepared to commit Government at this stage to a definite statement of what we can do or what we cannot do by way of presenting supplementary estimates in the course of the year. Nor can I promise that if a supplementary estimate be presented this scheme will be included. We have all over the province many valuable sites acquired many years ago in the days of the old Government for definite cut-and-dried schemes which unfortunately could not be proceeded with for want of funds. For example there is in Calcutta a valuable site acquired years ago for the establishment of a Muhammadan Arts College; I wanted to push on with the scheme, but for want of money I have not been able to do so. In the town of Dacca a large site was acquired at Gandaria for an Intermediate College; we have no money to proceed with this. As regards girls' education in various parts of the province where the local people have evinced better signs of self-help we could not help them to supplement their efforts. I am afraid I am not in a position to accept the amendment of my friend, Mr. Dutta, but so far as the underlying principle is concerned I am willing to accept the resolution; I can also give this further assurance that when I have the necessary money and as soon as the relative urgency of other schemes will permit, I shall be very pleased to take up this scheme. I trust after my assurance my friends will withdraw their resolutions and amedments; I may tell them that it will be better for the object they have in view to withdraw them, because if they persist in pressing the resolution and the amendment in spite of my assurance, I shall oppose both the resolution and the amendment.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: It seems that insonsistency is the bugbear of some people in this Council, but as I explained in my speech I said that if we were able to make retrenchment in the budget in the course of the next 15 days, I should like the Minister to provide in the supplementry budget a grant for this school in July next. I only wanted Rs. 10,000 and I hope I may have his assurance that he will be able to cut Rs. 10,000 from the Education budget this year, to provide for this important scheme.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I want many more thousands for many more important schemes than this. I am afraid I cannot give any definite assurance.

The motion standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq was then put and lost.

Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta's amendment was not put as the original motion was lost.

Silting up of the Brahmaputra.

Mr. S. M. BOSE: I move that this Council recommends to Government that a committee of experts be appointed by the Government immediately to consider the cause of the silting up of the Brahmaputra in Mymensingh and to suggest means for improving the flow of the river.

We have all heard of the glories of the mighty, the holy river, Brahmaputra. It has been intimately connected with the history of Bengal and has done incalculable service to the people of Bengal. But, unfortunately, the glory of the river is fast becoming a thing of the past, like most of the other glories of Bengal. It will serve no useful purpose to dwell at length on the story of this mighty river and of its steady degeneration. Suffice it to say that since the end of the eighteenth century, the volume of water flowing along the main bed has been steadily diminishing. It has been said that since the last great earthquake of 1897 matters have become far worse, for now we find that the current is very sluggish, and the water become so shallow that the river is easily fordable. The effect is that there are serious difficulties in navigation even in the case of country boats. This means a serious loss of trade facilities. Then the shallow water of the river is a standing menace to the health of the towns and villages on its banks—specially of the town of Mymensingh.

For all these reasons, it is from every point of view desirable that the river should be improved; but that is a very large order as I am aware, and it is a difficult matter to suggest remedies off hand. The causes of the decay of the river must first be carefully investigated and remedies suggested. It is said—I do not know with what truth—that the construction of the bridge across the river by the Mymensingh Bhairab Bazar Railway has caused a further silting up. But this is a matter for expert inquiry. Since last year I have been trying to draw the attention of the Government to this matter, but unfortunately nothing much has yet been done. So I wish to press upon the Government the urgency of an immediate inquiry into the causes of the silting up of the river. This vitally affects the health and the prosperity of a very large number of people in East Bengal, so I hope that this matter will receive the immediate attention of the Hon'ble the Member in charge.

My object in bringing forward this motion is to draw the attention of the Government in a matter which vitally affects East Bengal. We, from East Bengal, have an uneasy feeling that East Bengal does not meet with much attention from the Government here, and we feel that on the

principle "out of sight, out of mind," matters which affect Eastern Bengal do not receive so much consideration from the people of Western Bengal. It is for these reasons that I have brought forward this resolution.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): Mr. S. M. Bose wants to appoint a committee of experts to consider the cause of the silting up of the Brahmaputra in Mymensingh and to suggest means for improving the flow of the river.

In all rivers which carry silt there are certain laws, one of which is that when there are two channels by which silt-laden water may flow from one point up-stream to another point down-stream, one or other of these channels will silt up and the other develop. Both channels may keep exactly alike for a short time, but only for a short time for the equilibrium is unstable and sooner or later one channel deteriorates and unless this deterioration can be arrested or mitigated that channel will die. For this reason when a river cuts across a loop, the loop being the longer and less convenient channel, silts up.

At Dacca the Buriganga is a loop of the Dhaleswari and is always giving trouble. In this case the Buriganga is helped by the flood water that enters it from the north, or it would be still more difficult to keep it open.

The Ganges used to flow down Tolly's Nullah but found an easier channel into another river through an artificial cut. In consequence of this, its old channel has ceased to exist and the upper part of it, Tolly's Nullah, is kept open with difficulty. There are examples of this all over Bengal. The Brahmaputra is only another example. The cause of the silting up of the Brahmaputra is the same as Tolly's Nullah. The cause of the silting up is easy to see and requires no expert committee to discover it. It is an alternate route to the Jumna. The remedy is more difficult. It is much the same as the Bhagirathi over again. Even if a committee of experts considered the question there are only two direct ways of dealing with it,—

(*a*) to dredge the Brahmaputra from end to end, and

(*b*) to partially close the Jumna.

Both these ways are extremely dangerous for they might cause the Jumna to desert its present bed altogether and flow down the Brahmaputra.

There is a third indirect way, namely, to turn one or more independent streams down the Brahmaputra. Something of this sort must be taking place now; the rainfall from the country round must be flowing into the Brahmaputra or it would by this time be dead. We might be

able to keep it going by turning suitable streams into it, but we hav no information at present as to which streams, if any, would suit our purpose and this inquiry must first be made. An expert committee, howeve gifted, would not help us without this information, and with it, there is no necessity for an expert committee at all.

For these reasons, Sir, I am opposed to the idea of the appointment of an expert committee at the present moment. If the information which I have mentioned is collectd and later on when we have better financial means to go into further investigation of the question of getting expert advice, the question of a committee might be considered. But for the present it is not feasible and in that view I have got to oppose this resolution.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Control over motor vehicles by district boards.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: I move that this Council recommends to the Government that early steps be taken to frame laws to give effective control to the district boards and municipalities in the mufassal over motor vehicles plying on their roads.

This resolution speaks for itself. The number of motor vehicles in the mufassal has greatly increased and though there are some rules framed under the Motor Vehicles Act these rules do not give the district boards and municipalities power to close their roads altogether to all sorts of motor vehicles and heavy traffic; under rule 30 they are authorized to restrict the passage of motor vehicles of a certain class with the permission of the District Magistrate, but it has no power to regulate the traffic or to grant licenses in respect of a particular class of motor vehicles to the exclusion of others. The roads in the mufassal were originally intended for bullock carts and unless they are improved they cannot be used by motor vehicles of great weight. Many companies and people are willing to contribute towards the improvement of the roads and make them suitable for motor traffic, but this cannot be accepted, because as soon as the district board or municipality opens a road, they are bound to allow all sorts of motor vehicles to pass over it, and has no power to control or restrict this traffic. For these reasons, I beg to move this resolution.

The following amendment standing in the name of Babu Annada Charan Dutta was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn :—

"To move by way of amendment, that in the above motion the following words be added at the end, namely,—

' and to enable them to levy some rate or tax therefrom.' "

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: I rise to support the resolution that has been moved by Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin Ahmed. What we all know at present is that persons who have got motor-cars in order to make a profit run through the district board roads at a high speed and damage them, with the result that the roads become impassable even for ordinary traffic. As has been pointed out by my friend, Maulvi Wasimuddin Ahmed, it is not possible for the district board to prohibit the plying of these motor cars and come to some sort of settlement which will substantially help the district boards in keeping their roads in repair. As it is, these rules, as at present framed, stand in the way of the district boards making improvements and offering facilities to other traffic also. If such a resolution is passed—and I think the Council will see that it is passed—all the district boards will have an opportunity of meeting the unnecessary expense which is entailed by motor cars running over their roads, and it will help in obtaining a substantial subscription from persons plying cars on these roads.

Rai PYARI LAL DOSS Bahadur: At the outset, I may, at once, say that I support the resolution. The Bengal Municipal Act is an old Act, it being Act III of 1884; and although amendments have been added to it, from time to time, it has been of a patch-work character ,one part not fitting in well with the other. To meet present requirements the Act requires thorough recasting, and I doubt not that the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Local Self-Government will soon see his way to introduce a Bill to effectuate the same.

Under the present Act, within municipal areas, carts and carriages which use municipal roads, are required to pay certain taxes, by way of contribution for repairs for damages caused to the roads by their use. The motor vehicles cut away the roads more quickly and cause greater damage than carts and carriages; but they are not required to pay any tax whatever, there being no provision in the present Municipal Act for the levy of any such tax. The streets in the mufassal are, generally speaking, very narrow, and local bodies have no control for regulating the speed of motor vehicles running through such streets, and the result has been sad and serious accidents to human lives. I will cite an interesting case from the Dacca municipality. Lately, Sir, motor buses have been introduced there, running from Dacca to Narainganj, and these cars have got to pass over a municipal bridge known as the Iron Suspension Bridge. The municipal Commissioners were advised that the running of such cars with a full contingent of passengers would materially damage the bridge and might eventually bring about its collapse. But they were powerless to put a stop to it, and they felt bound to effect a settlement, the owners of buses undertaking to unload the passengers, while the cars would be on the bridge. The commissioners were much handicapped for want of a statutory provision in the present Act in the matter of the settlement. Sir, it is urgently necessary that local bodies should be invested

with powers of control over motor vehicles and an early enactment is necessary for the purpose.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: From past experience I am in a position to place before the Council certain facts. Within the limits of a municipality we often find that roads are often damaged by the constant use of motor vehicles. We look to the Bengal Municipal Act for help, but we do not find any provision there about it. In fact, Sir, we sometimes find that motor vehicles are a nuisance to municipal administration. Consequently, it is necessary that some sort of remedy should be given to municipalities and district boards. When the Carriage Act was passed, a reference was made to the provision on this subject, but the definition of the word "carriage" excluded the motor vehicles. Consequently, municipalities and district boards are placed in a difficult position. I am aware, Sir, that the Bengal Municipal Act is going to be modified, but I do not know when the modification will come into force. Therefore, Sir, I appeal to the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Local Self-Government to consider the suggestions made in the resolution.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): I desire to express my sympathy with the resolution which has been moved and which has been supported by representatives of various local bodies. I find my esteemed friend, Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur, supporting it, Rai Pyari Lal Doss Bahadur and other representatives of local bodies lending the weight of their name and authority to this resolution. I may say at once that I am in sympathy with it, and I may inform my hon'ble friends here that we propose at a conference of the delegates of district boards which is to be held on the 24th of this month, to discuss this very matter now before the Council, and we intend asking the conference to consider the question of levying license fees on carriages, including motor vehicles, and if they agree, we propose to introduce an emergent Bill amending the Local Self-Government Act in which this clause will find a place. That is so far as district boards are concerned.

As regards municipalities, I desire to place them on the same footing with the district boards by introducing a short Bill in July giving power to municipalities to levy license fees upon carriages including motor vehicles within their jurisdiction. We have put that provision in the Bengal Municipal Bill, but that will take a long time, so I propose to introduce a short emergent Bill in July empowering municipalities to levy license fees on carriages and on all motor vehicles. I think that will satisfy my friends.

As regards the question of control, which has been raised this does not belong to local bodies; it is a matter of police arrangement, and we cannot have two co-ordinate, authorities. So far as the levying of license

fees and the protection of roads, this is a function which belongs to local bodies are concerned. In view of this explanation I trust my hon'ble friend will withdraw his resolution.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have two announcements to make to the Council. His Excellency the Governor will attend the Council to-morrow at 3 P. M. and will address the Council. I hope members will be in their seats by 2-45 P.M.

I have it also in command from His Excellency the Governor to announce that the meetings of the Council on Saturday, the 17th and Saturday the 24th, will be held from 10-30 A.M. to 2 P.M.

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till 2-45 P.M. on Friday, the 16th March, 1923, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Friday, the 16th March, 1923, at 2-45 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President in the Chair, the four Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council, the three Hon'ble Ministers, and 100 nominated and elected members.

The Hon'ble the President's Address.

Mr. PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. E. A. Cotton): Order, order! Members will have studied the papers circulated yesterday in which details are given of the allotment of time authorized by His Excellency the Governor for the discussion of the demands for grants. The procedure which I shall adopt in connection with each grant is as follows:—

> When the limit of time has been reached a bell will be rung. All amendments in connection with that demand which have not been reached will then automatically lapse and the demand for the grant will be put forthwith, together with any amendment which may at the moment be under consideration. Under rule 29(2) (section 90 at page 207 of the Manual) it is incumbent upon the President as soon as the maximum limit of time for discussion of any one demand is reached, forthwith to put every question necessary to dispose of the demand under discussion. The only question necessary to dispose of a particular demand is the demand itself or the demand as already amended, as the case may be, together with any motion which may at the moment be under consideration. This is the accepted Parliamentary interpretation of the House of Commons' Standing Order upon which the Council's rule is based, and it is also the procedure adopted in the Legislative Assembly.

The Council will sit to-day until the four hours allotted to "5.—Land Revenue" have expired, and I shall then put the main question, together, as I have said, with any amendment which may at the moment be under consideration.

Members are also reminded that on the last day of the allotted days, viz., March 29th, at 5 o'clock, all amendments relating to any of the

demands for grants which have not then been reached will lapse automatically on the same principle, and the main question in connection with each remaining grant will then alone be put by me from the Chair. The putting of the main question will dispose of that question and of all outstanding motions in connection with that particular demand. This, again, is in strict accordance with the accepted Parliamentary practice and with the procedure of the Legislative Assembly.

At 3 P.M. the Registrar to the Council announced to the Hon'ble the President that His Excellency the Governor was without.

The Hon'ble the President then left his seat on the dais and met His Excellency at the door of the Chamber. His Excellency then entered the Chamber with the Hon'ble the President and, at the request of the Hon'ble the President, took his seat on the Presidential Chair, the Hon'ble the President being seated on His Excellency's right.

His Excellency the Governor's Address.

HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR of BENGAL (the Earl of Lytton): GENTLEMEN,—It is just a year since I first addressed this Council almost immediately after my arrival in Calcutta. You were then at the end of a long and arduous session. As a newcomer it was not possible for me to do more than congratulate you on the termination of your labours, and to thank you for the financial provision which you had made for my Government. The year which has since elapsed has had some important features on which I desire to comment as I may not have the opportunity of addressing you at the close of the present session.

The outstanding feature of the year has undoubtedly been the improvement in the political situation. Agitation has died down, racial bitterness is less acute, the prisons which were crowded at the time of my arrival are now nearly empty of political offenders, and special laws are no longer required for the maintenance of public order. This improvement, which began with the arrest of the leaders and fomenters of disorder, has been greatly assisted by the good monsoon with which we were favoured last year. Crops have been plentiful, economic distress has been diminished, and the political agitator has been working in barren soil. But the plentiful rains which brought so much benefit to some districts proved disastrous in others, and the floods of last September caused very widespread distress in the Rajshahi Division. You voted without hesitation the sums which the Government demanded for the relief of distress in that area, and I have no doubt that if any further sums prove to be needed, you will be equally ready to sanction the expenditure.

Thanks to the prompt dispatch of additional doctors to the flooded area, and the provision made in co-operation with the local officers an

outbreak of epidemic disease was avoided, and the actual loss of life was extremely small. Government assistance was supplemented on a generous scale by unofficial bodies. Large sums of money were subscribed by the public, and voluntary workers have been administering relief in the district ever since. Although some sections of the Press have tried to make political capital out of the work of the Bengal Relief Committee, I do not think that the workers themselves have had any thought but a wish to relieve the distress which they saw around them. I am glad to acknowledge with gratitude the excellent work which they did and are still doing in the flooded area. The recent rains, which have done damage to the late winter crops in other parts of the province, have proved a god-send to the flooded area, and I hope that the distress which is inseparable from such a calamity has, thanks to all these causes, been reduced within the narrowest possible limits. It only remains for us to turn this unhappy experience to good account by studying and, as far as possible, removing the causes of these frequently recurring floods. We shall not hesitate to take whatever action is recommended to us by the committee of engineers whom we have appointed to examine the problem.

In this Council the work of legislation has been heavy and important. I congratulate you upon the passage into law at last of the Calcutta Municipal Bill. That great item of constructive legislation is an achievement which reflects credit on the veteran statesman who has piloted it on to the Statute Book as well as on the members of this Council who have devoted so many months to the examination and criticism of its complicated provisions. Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea spoke of this Bill the other day as the crown of his life's ambition. I hope it is only one of many other legislative achievements which he may yet live to accomplish, and that we shall be able before long to congratulate him on the passage of the Bengal Municipal Bill as well. (Applause.)

The passage of the Goondas Bill has been another valuable piece of work of this session. That measure will give much-needed protection to life and property in this town. Although the lifetime of this Council is now drawing to an end, there are still some important items of legislation which will come before you in the July session, notably the Bengal Municipal Bill and the Government Bill for the Reform of the Calcutta University, which we have not as yet been able to introduce. The Government is pledged to bring in legislation on this subject, and it is our intention to do so. Our anxiety to consult the authorities of the University and to obtain their support, as far as possible, is responsible for the delay. They are naturally suspicious of any outside control, and are inclined to read into our proposals motives and intentions which do not exist. Our desire is not to place the University under the control of the Government, but to ensure the closest possible connection and co-operation between the Government and the University, and to exercise a legitimate supervision over the expenditure of funds which are provided by

the Government. Those are objects which are not only legitimate for us to aim at, but also necessary and indispensable conditions of Government assistance. Beyond that, we do not wish to go. (Hear, hear.)

As you are aware, the statutory life of this Council expires in January next. As that time of year is generally acknowledged to be inconvenient for holding elections, I have decided to hold the next elections in the first week of November. It may perhaps be convenient, therefore, to extend the July session and to dispense with the August one this year, so as to give you time to visit your constituencies and prepare for the coming elections.

In the present session there still remains important work to be done in connection with the annual budget. A memorandum has been placed in your hands to-day from which you will see that our financial position is rather better than we were aware at the time when Mr. Donald made his budget statement. From the actuals of our collections up to the end of February we can now estimate that our revenue for this year will be Rs. 10 lakhs better than we anticipated. That will reduce this year's deficit to about Rs. 6 lakhs. Next year our revenue should be about Rs. 4 lakhs better, which will reduce the estimated deficit to only Rs. 2 lakhs before we make any further retrenchment in expenditure.

This brings me to the subject of retrenchment, on which I have something to say. As the appointment of the Retrenchment Committee, in the first instance, was largely due to my personal initiative, I have a special interest in their recommendations and a strong desire to profit as much as possible from them. Both the Government and the Council, however, are placed in a somewhat embarrassing position from the fact that the report of the Committee was received too late to be considered before the preparation of this year's budget. I am not blaming the Committee for that. They did their work with great expedition, and I am extremely grateful to them for the business-like way in which they carried out their difficult and arduous task. Our thanks are due in a special degree to the Chairman, Sir Rajendra Nath Mukherjee, who served at the same time on Lord Inchcape's Committee, and who has thus made an exhaustive examination into every department both of the Central and of the Provincial Governments.

The report of the Committee is a most interesting and helpful document, but it raises questions of great complexity and makes proposals which are inevitably very controversial. This Council will of course wish to express an opinion as to how far their recommendations can be and should be carried out, but it is entitled to hear the considered views of the Government before deciding how to act. As you know, we published the report as soon as we received it, without waiting to examine it and before we could decide how much of it we were able to carry out. I wish to tell

you to-day what action we have already taken and what action we intend to take regarding it, in order that you may have some guidance as to your attitude towards the demands for grants which will be submitted to you.

Our first desire was to allay, as far as possible, the anxiety and uncertainty which now prevails in the minds of all those Government servants whose position and future prospects are affected by the report of the Committee. That anxiety is extremely detrimental to efficiency, and we have, therefore, decided to minimize, as far as possible, any hardships which may be caused to individuals by our efforts to economise. Where we decide to abolish posts and effect the reductions of staff which the Committee have recommended, we shall endeavour, as far as we can, to absorb into other posts the individuals who thus become redundant. This will have two effects. It will stop for a time all fresh recruitment into Government service from outside, and it will delay the realization of the savings which the Committee have suggested. We hope, however, that the Council will support us in this policy and will accept these two disadvantages as preferable to the hardship which would otherwise be entailed upon individuals who have rendered faithful service to the Government for many years.

Beyond this general decision which affects all reductions of staff, we have not been able in the short time at our disposal to prepare a considered opinion upon each of the proposals of the Committee, and the demands for grants which will be submitted to you have, therefore, not, except in a few cases, been affected by the Committee's report. The point I want to make clear is that if a demand for a grant is made in respect of any department in which the Committee has recommended retrenchment, that does not mean that the Government has decided to reject the recommendation, and if you see fit to vote the sums asked for, that will not mean that the retrenchment cannot be effected in the coming year. Every department has been called upon to carry out the recommendations of the Committee or to justify its inability to do so. The actual effect of the proposed retrenchments requires to be examined carefully, and in many cases officers have had to be placed on special duty to work them out. This necessarily takes time, but I am able to give the Council an assurance on behalf of the Government that each proposal which we find ourselves able to accept will be given effect to as soon as possible, and the retrenchment will be made even though the full amount of the grant may have been voted by the Council. The Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Finance Department may be relied upon to press for the acceptance of the Committee's recommendations with as much zeal as any member of this Council, and in that task I shall certainly give him my personal support.

Within the next financial year, therefore, we shall get the benefit, subject to the limitation I have mentioned, of all those proposals for

retrenchment which the Government decide to accept, even though they do not appear in the budget proposals which are now submitted to the Council.

I do not want to mislead the Council, however, into thinking that we shall be able to accept all the proposals of the Retrenchment Committee even with the limitation as regards absorbing surplus individuals, to which I have referred. Some of the proposals it is not in our power to accept without the sanction of the Secretary of State. Others we shall not think it desirable to accept. There are some which I do not think this Council would be prepared to accept. I want to make quite clear to you, what is the procedure which I am asking you to follow, and what the consequences will be if you accept the advice which I am giving to you. I am asking you to vote the amounts which we shall submit to you in the next few days and to trust the Government to effect the economies which the Retrenchment Committee has recommended after they have had time to examine them carefully.

In the case of retrenchments which you may desire to carry out, but which the Government is not prepared to accept, you will, it is true, be parting with your power of altering this year's budget in accordance with your views if you adopt the procedure which I am recommending to you. But I submit that the consequence of such a contingency will be far less serious than the possible consequences of insisting upon reductions now, merely because they have been recommended by the Retrenchment Committee, against the advice of the Government, before the Government has had time to examine them thoroughly, and before you yourselves can know what the actual consequences will be.

It was obviously impossible for the Retrenchment Committee, considering the great range of subjects which they examined and in the short time at their disposal, to investigate thoroughly the consequences of all their proposals, and indeed their report bears evidence that in some cases they had not done so. I do not think, therefore, that the members of the Committee themselves ever intended that all their recommendations should be given immediate effect to without any further examination. I submit, therefore, that the request which I am making to you on behalf of the Government is not an unreasonable one. It is that you should postpone your undoubted right to pass judgment on the retrenchment proposals until you have heard from the Government a reasoned argument on the merits of each proposal and a statement from them of the consequences of accepting it.

I do not wish to detain you, but I should like in conclusion to refer by way of illustration to the cases of the Calcutta and Dacca Universities. In speaking of them, I have an additional interest derived from the fact that I am their Chancellor, and, therefore, deeply concerned in their welfare. Grants-in-aid of both of them are included among the demands which will be placed before you. Both unfortunately involve some

points of controversy, but I most earnestly hope that these amounts will be voted without reduction. As I announced the other day at Dacca, I propose to appoint a committee of educational experts to act as a standing advisory body to the Government in matters connected with higher education in the province. We have now two universities both requiring financial help from the Government. It is quite clear that our resources will never be sufficient to finance them both if each is allowed to develop regardless of the existence of the other. The work of both must be co-ordinated as much as possible, so that the money provided by the Government may be spent in the most economical and profitable manner. It is to enable us to effect all possible economies and to secure this co-ordination that I propose to appoint this committee on which the authorities of both universities will be represented. With their help, we shall, during the coming year, work out a policy and place before the Council, before next year's budget is presented, a considered scheme for the allocation of funds between the Dacca and Calcutta Universities. If, however, the grants which we propose for this year are refused or diminished before full consideration has been given to the matter, very serious damage may be done to the cause of university education in the province. I am asking for your confidence and I have felt justified in doing so because I am as much impressed as any member of this Council with the necessity of curtailing to the utmost our administrative expenses.

This is required not so much for the purpose of balancing our accounts, for it is clear from the figures I have already mentioned, that we shall succeed in doing that without recourse to fresh taxation even if we effect no further retrenchment. But retrenchment of administrative expenses is required in order that we may have more money to spend upon productive and beneficial work. My tours in the province have convinced me of the urgent need for the provision of better sanitation and medical relief, better education, and productive enterprises in agriculture and industries. All this requires money; and as I said at Burdwan the other day, the money has got to be saved by curtailing unprofitable expenditure. It is with this object that we are examining the proposals of the Retrenchment Committee. We have no intention of spending less upon education, public health, and agricultural and industrial developments; economies which would prejudice the interests of these subjects will meet with no sympathy. We want to spend more, not less, upon such matters, and our thanks are due to the Retrenchment Committee only in so far as they have been able to suggest ways in which this can be done.

I apologize for having detained you at such length, but the privilege of occasionally meeting the members of this Council and addressing them on matters for which they are jointly responsible with myself is one which I value, and I hope you will not resent it if I avail myself of this privilege to review with you the work of the year. (Applause.)

His Excellency the Governor then left the Chamber, preceded by the Hon'ble the President.

The Hon'ble the President then re-entered the Council Chamber and took the Chair.

Starred Question

(to which oral answer was given).

Anti-malarial works by district boards.

*LXXIV. **Babu NALINI NATH ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government prepare schemes and estimates for anti-malarial works, and that the district boards take loans from the Government according to such estimates?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware—

(*i*) that the district boards of Bengal are not well off; and

(*ii*) that they consult their funds and take loans on their maximum capacity of repaying?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of cases in which those estimates were superseded and the district boards were asked to take further loans?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) It is not the case that district boards have exhausted their borrowing capacity. Their present indebtedness is a trifling amount.

(*c*) The member is referred to the four schemes, viz., Amta, Nowi-Sunthi, Jabuna and Arul Bhil. The estimates of all of these four schemes have been revised, but no loan has yet been taken by any of the district boards.

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Sub-Judge's Court at Asansol.

438. **Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Judicial Department been

drawn to the resolution passed at a public meeting of the people of the district of Burdwan held on the 27th November, 1922, at the Bangsogopal Town Hall, Burdwan, presided over by Raja Ban Bihari Kapur Bahadur, C.S.I.?

(*b*) Is it a fact that new lands will have to be acquired and quarters and new Court Buildings for the Sub-Judge will have to be constructed at Asansol?

(*c*) Is it a fact that new Civil Court Buildings with ample accommodation have recently been constructed at Burdwan Sadar?

(*d*) Is it a fact that shortly after the transfer of the Second Judge's Court from Burdwan Sadar to Asansol, another Additional Sub-Judge has been posted at Sadar and that the services of three officers are now engaged on work which formerly used to be done by two?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the Sub-Judge at Asansol had to be vested with powers to decide will cases, insolvency cases, and Act VII cases (Succession Certificate) arising within the Asansol munsifi, which formerly used to be decided by the District Judge?

(*f*) Is the Hon'ble the Member aware that the transfer of the Court has caused the litigant public inconvenience and has made litigation much more expensive, as litigants are compelled to engage pleaders from the Burdwan bar on large fees?

(*g*) Is it a fact that Criminal Sessions cases arising within the subdivisions of Kalna, Katwa, and even of Sadar have had to be transferred to Asansol for trial, entailing additional cost and inconvenience to the jurors and witnesses?

(*h*) Will the Hon'ble the Member be pleased to state what steps, if any, the Government are taking in the matter?

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) An Additional Subordinate Judge has been entertained since July, 1920, at Burdwan but there is enough work in the District for the three Subordinate Judges.

(*e*) The Subordinate Judge at Asausol was vested with the powers mentioned.

(*f*) The matter is under inquiry.

(*g*) A statement is laid on the table. In all the cases tried at Asansol jurors were summoned either from places within the Asansol subdivision or places within easy reach of Asansol.

(*h*) The matter is under inquiry.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (g) of unstarred question No. 438, showing the number of Sessions cases arising within the jurisdiction of Burdwan, Kalna and Katwa Subdivisions and transferred to Asansol for trial.

From Burdwan.—1920—1; 1921—4; 1922—1.

From Kalna.—1920—Nil; 1921—1; 1922—1.

From Katwa.—1920—1; 1921—3; 1922—2.

Medical School at Chittagong.

439. Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) how far has the proposed scheme of a Medical School at Chittagong advanced;

(*ii*) have any subscriptions been raised for the acquisition of additional lands for the site of the Schools; and

(*iii*) if so, what is the amount of such subscriptions?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking up the project at once?

(*c*) Is it not a fact that the Campbell Medical and Ronaldshay Medical Schools have been closed for the students of Chittagong?

(*d*) Was any such student admitted in these schools last session?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of applicants for admission into the Dacca Medical School from the Chittagong division in 1922;

(*ii*) how many of such applicants were actually admitted; and

(*iii*) what is the total number of admissions last session in the Dacca Medical School?

(*f*) Are the Government considering the desirability of throwing open the schools mentioned in (*c*) to Chittagong students and reserving a certain number of seats for them in each of the said schools and the Dacca Mitford School, till the Chittagong Medical School is started?

***The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA:** (*a*) (*i*) The Chittagong Medical School Scheme has not further advanced. It is

awaiting the completion of the Mymensingh School project. A reference is invited also to the recent speech of the Minister for Local Self-Government in the Legislative Council.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) Rs. 9,793 has so far been received as subscriptions towards the cost of acquisition of land for the school. This, together with interest, amounts to Rs. 9,853 only.

(*b*) It is not possible to take up the project at once for want of funds.

(*c*) The Campbell and the Ronaldshay Medical Schools are not *absolutely* closed to the students from the Chittagong division, but students from the Presidency and Rajshahi divisions and those from the Burdwan division, respectively, are *ordinarily* admitted to these schools —as provided for in the footnote to Rule 10 of the rules for the management of Government Schools.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) A statement showing the information wanted is laid on the Library table.

(*f*) The attention of the member is drawn to the answer given in the current session of the Council to his unstarred question No. 316(*b*). Government do not consider that there is justification for modifying the existing rule on the subject.

Public Works cess receipts and expenditure.

440. Mr. TARIT BHUSAN ROY: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing separately for each district for the last six years—

(*i*) the amount of annual receipts by the district boards from the Public Works cess;

(*ii*) the amount from such receipts that were spent every year—

(*a*) on communications,

(*b*) on the supply of drinking water in rural areas;

(*iii*) the number of wells that have been sunk each year;

(*iv*) the number of tanks that have been excavated and reclaimed each year; and

(*v*) the cost incurred in respect of the work referred to in (*iii*) and (*iv*) ?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: Statements are laid on the Library table.

Dispensaries and hospitals.

441. Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of dispensaries maintained by each of the district boards at thana headquarters and the average cost of maintenance of such dispensaries in each district;

(*ii*) the number of dispensaries maintained by each district board at villages other than thana headquarters and the average cost of maintenance of such dispensaries in each district;

(*iii*) the total expenditure of each district board for the maintenance of the thana and village dispensaries in the year 1921-22;

(*iv*) the number of dispensaries outside municipal areas in each district receiving aid from district boards and the average amount of aid given to such dispensaries in each district;

(*v*) the number of hospitals and dispensaries within municipal areas in each district receiving aid from the district board and the amount of such aid;

(*vi*) the number of private charitable dispensaries in each district receiving no aid either from the district board or the Government and the average cost of the maintenance of such dispensaries;

(*vii*) the number of thanas in each district which have no dispensaries—

(*a*) at thana headquarters, and

(*b*) within the thana jurisdiction; and

(*viii*) the number of qualified medical practitioners in each district?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: A statement is laid on the Library table.

Road cess receipts in Pabna.

442. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state for the last five years—

(*i*) what were the unspent balances of road cess in the district of Pabna; and

(*ii*) how much of the monies spent out of road cess fund was applied to the purposes for which such cesses were levied during the last five years?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*i*) The member is referred to the reply given to starred question No. VII asked by Mr. Tarit Bhusan Roy at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 1st April, 1921, which was published at page 1105 of the Council Proceedings, Vol. I, 1921. The road cess fund for the years 1920-21 and 1921-22 of the Pabna district had also no unspent balance.

(*ii*) The entire amount of road cess receipts was applied to the purposes for which the cess was levied.

Polling centres for local board elections in Pabna and Sirajganj.

443. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the names and number of polling centres set up in Pabna Sadar and Sirajganj subdivisions, respectively, for recording votes in the local board elections held for these boards in the year 1921;

(*ii*) the total number of voters as well of villages by police-stations in the Sadar and Sirajganj subdivisions;

(*iii*) the area of Pabna Sadar and Sirajganj subdivisions in square miles;

(*iv*) the percentage of voters who attended the booths;

(*v*) the percentage of electors in each of these polling centres; and

(*vi*) the number of votes recorded in favour of each of the candidates in each of the police-stations in both the subdivisions?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the polling centres were set up at distances far away from any villages and that the majority of voters did not attend the booths for recording their votes?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of setting up polling centres, in future elections, within three miles to the seat of electors?

(*d*) Are the nominations distributed all over the subdivisions or are they limited to particular thanas or police-stations as the case may be?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) Two statements, A and B, furnishing the information referred to in sub-clauses (*i*), (*ii*), (*iv*), (*v*) and (*vi*) of clause (*a*) of the question are laid on the Library table.

As regards the area of the Pabna Sadar and Sirajganj subdivisions (sub-clause *iii*) the member is referred to column 2 of Provincial Table I at page 408 of Census Tables, Volume V, 1911.

(b) Polling centres were central and the non-attendance of the electors was due to their unwillingness to record their votes.

(c) The answer is in the negative.

(d) The nominations were distributed all over the subdivisions.

Public health schemes.

444. Mr. HUSEYN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of the schemes in the Department of Public Health referred to in resolutions carried or accepted by the present Council with the approximate cost for each?

(b) Of these schemes, how many and which have been given effect to and the extent to which they have been given effect to?

(c) How many and which of these schemes have been held up for want of funds?

(d) How many and which of these schemes do the Government not propose to accept?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (a) to (d) The member is referred to the reply given to his unstarred question No. 437 relating to the Sanitation Department at the meeting of the 14th March, 1923.

District Board Engineering staff.

445. Mr. KRISHNA CHANDRA RAY CHAUDHURI: (a) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether is it not a fact that in consideration of the present economic conditions prevailing in the country, all ranks of public services have got substantial increments to their pay?

(b) Is it a fact that for the same reason, the Public Works Department officers have got about 100 per cent. increase of their pay?

(c) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that the Engineering staff serving under the district boards of Bengal have not yet get any increment of pay, though they represented their cases to the Government as early as in April, 1920?

(d) Is the Hon'ble the Minister also aware that there is a widespread disaffection prevailing amongst the Engineering staff of the district boards?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the overseers and supervisors under the Public Works Department are now getting more pay than many District Engineers under the district boards?

(*f*) If so, what steps, if any, are the Government taking to improve the conditions of service of the latter class of officers?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) The pay of the public services has been revised, and in many cases the increments have been substantial.

(*b*) The Public Works Department is now divided into the following branches, viz.:—

(*i*) Indian Service of Engineers (formerly termed Imperial and Provincial Engineers);

(*ii*) Bengal Engineering Service;

(*iii*) Upper subordinates (supervisors and overseers);

(*iv*) Subordinate Engineering Service (composed of selected lower subordinates); and

(*v*) Lower subordinates [compromising officers not promoted to case (*iv*)].

In the case of (*ii*) and (*iv*) there are some officers, who have obtained 100 per cent. increase over their former pay.

(*c*) The member is referred to the reply given to clause (*a*) (*i*) of starred question No. I asked by Mr. S. M. Bose at the meeting of the 20th November, 1922.

(*d*) The Minister believes that such a feeling exists among the District Engineers.

(*e*) If officers of the new Bengal Engineering Service are referred to, the reply is in the negative.

(*f*) The member is referred to the reply given to clauses (*e*) and (*f*) of unstarred question No. 418 asked by Maulvi Rafi Uddin Ahmed at the meeting of the 27th February, 1923.

The Budget for the year 1923-24.

Demands for Grants.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. J. Donald): Before the Council proceeds with the discussion on demands for grants, I would refer to the memorandum which has been placed in the hands of the members. His Excellency has already referred to it briefly.

The latest figures that we have indicated a better growth of the Excise revenue—Rs. 6 lakhs more this year than was anticipated last month.

We expect a further Rs. 2 lakhs under Stamps and Rs. 2 lakhs more from the Amusements Tax. This will bring in an increase revenue of Rs. 10 lakhs. As no increase in expenditure is contemplated, we are thus Rs. 10 lakhs better and our deficit this year will be Rs. 6 lakhs, 10 lakhs less than the Rs. 16 lakhs and odd shown in the Financial Statement presented on the 19th February. We are not carrying forward the same increase of revenue next year. We have put in only Rs. 4 lakhs more under Excise, which is considered quite safe. In addition to this we have included private contributions and the district boards' contribution towards the scheme for a medical school at Mymensingh. We have added that on the receipts side and put on the expenditure side a similar amount. The Mymensingh medical school can thus be pushed ahead. There are also one or two smaller items which are mentioned in paragraph 5 of the memorandum. The result of these changes is that the estimated expenditure next year exceeds the revenue by Rs. 4,82,000.

5.—LAND REVENUE.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE (LAND REVENUE) (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): I move that a sum of Rs. 29,23,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "5.—Land Revenue."

I do not think that at this stage I need make any lengthy speech in view of the number of motions for reduction that have been put in by several members of the Legislative Council. But if all the motions for reduction are in due course moved by the movers, I hope that in some cases we may be able to meet their wishes, if not to the full extent in each case, at least to some extent, the reason being that we have since the framing of the budget been examining the different items with the same idea with which the majority, if not all the members of this Council, have put in the motions for reduction, namely, to economize. The grant covers expenses on charges of administration, including land acquisition, more than half of which is recovered; certificate establishment, more than half of which is recovered; partition establishment, all of which is recovered; record-room establishment, wards' estates establishment, kanungo establishment and road cess establishment, of which the whole cost is recovered. All these establishments, the Council will recognize, are a very necessary part of a Collectorate office. The proposed budget provision under the sub-head "Charges of Administration" is larger than last year by over half a lakh, but this is rather a nominal than a real increase because the salaries of the Special Land Acquisition Officers in the 24-Parganas, Howrah, and Burdwan have now been debited to this head instead of under "22—General Administration." In this connection I would also like to point out that there is the provision made for the long-deferred increased pay of district kanungos, which has

only recently been given effect to, and I trust tha[illegible]w of the many resolutions that had been tabulated in the past for [illegible]ing the pay and prospects of those district kanungos, this amount [illegible] voted. The proposed grant also covers charges for the manag[illegible]nt of G[illegible]ment estates, survey and settlement, and the office of [illegible]e Dire[illegible] Land Records. This year it has not been possible to show any [illegible]reciable reduction in the expenditure in the office of the Director [illegible] Surveys, although the Director of Land Records has taken over the [illegible]k of the Director of Surveys—a promise which I gave out some mont[illegible]go. The reason for this is that in the first place we have got to co[illegible]ensate the Director of Surveys for his premature retirement, and also there are certain reductions in the office establishment which we could not possibly give effect to at the present moment, but next year, that is in 1924-25, we ought to be able to show a substantial saving in the estimate for the office of the Director of Surveys.

Before closing, Sir, I hope that, in connection with those motions for reduction which have been put in by the members with regard to matters like travelling and halting allowance and so forth which have come under the purview of the Retrenchment Committee, the members of this House will bear in mind what His Excellency has just spoken to them, and that in view of that they will in most of these cases deem fit to withdraw these motions.

I now move that a sum of Rs. 29,23,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "5.—Land Revenue."

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: After the statement made by His Excellency the Governor a few minutes ago and also the statement made by the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan just now, one feels embarrassed as to whether he should press for the motions for reduction or refusal of grants standing in his name. For my part I must confess that I do not hold that view. We believe that under some heads some reductions will be made or will be accepted by Government. If we could know at the beginning what reductions will be made or accepted by Government, I think, many of us will be prepared to withdraw the motions standing in our names and much of the time of the House will be saved; but if a statement from Government is not available beforehand, the only alternative left to us is to press the motions standing against each of us to-day. May I, therefore, ask whether the Government or at least the departments concerned, can let us know the position? We only want to know what motions Government are going to accept, or to what extent they are going to make reductions in the budget. If we can know all that, we may be in a position to withdraw the motions.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You had better move your motion formally in any case.

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 92,000 under the head "5.—Land Revenue—Charges of Administration—Land Acquisition Establishment" be reduced by Rs. 10,000 from the pay of establishment—clerks, servants, and temporary establishment.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I do not think that I can reply to Rai Upendra Lal Ray Bahadur regarding the particular motion which he has mentioned, because I think I made it clear to him that, as regards establishment such as clerks and servants and matters that are likely to be considered in connection with the Retrenchment Committee's report, we are not in a position at the present moment to give any assurance until their proposals have been examined, but if it would help in any way to reduce the time for discussion of the 106 motions that have been tabulated under "Land Revenue," I am quite prepared to make a statement as to the amounts that I propose to accept when these motions are put forward or, in view of my statement, the other motions on this subject are withdrawn. When the time comes and the motions are moved, I will accept them with the modification of the figure.

Let us turn to item No. 16. Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta wants to reduce the grant by Rs. 3,365. I have gone into the matter with the department and we are prepared to reduce it by Rs. 2,000. So when that particular motion comes up, I am prepared to accept a reduction of Rs. 2,000 if that is found acceptable to the House.

Then I turn to item No. 52. Babu Annada Charan Dutta wants a reduction of Rs. 2,856 out of a total demand of Rs. 10,856. We have gone into the matter and we are prepared to reduce it by Rs. 5,250. Therefore in regards to that particular motion we are prepared to do more than the mover himself wants.

Then I turn to item No. 61. Here Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri wants the demand for Rs. 7,76,290 for job work under head "5C.—Survey and Setletment, sub-head Major Settlement Operations" to be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000. I am afraid I cannot accept the figure of Rs. 1,00,000, but if it will help to reduce the discussion, I am quite prepared to say that I am going to accept, if it is acceptable to the House, a reduction of Rs. 45,000.

Then turning to item No. 65, which is another motion for reduction by Babu Annada Charan Dutta—"that the demand of Rs. 1,22,750 under '5C.—Survey and Settlement—Major—Settlement Operations—Office Expenses and Miscellaneous, be reduced by Rs. 25,000." I am quite prepared to accept that reduction of Rs. 25,000.

Then turning to item No. 81. Babu Satish Chandra Mukharji wants to reduce the demand of Rs. 2,500 by Rs. 500. We have gone into the matter and we are prepared to accept that.

In items Nos. 82, 83 and 84 there are two motions for reduction of the demand of Rs. 13,000—one by Babu Annada Charan Dutta and another by Rai Upendra Lal Ray Bahadur, who want to reduce the demand by Rs. 5,000, and the other (item No. 82) by Babu Satish Chandra Mukharji, who wants to reduce the demand by Rs. 3,000. Satish Babu told me yesterday that the figure "Rs. 8,000" in his motion was a mistake; this figure was Rs. 3,000, and we are prepared to accept that—a reduction of Rs. 3,000.

Then turning to item No. 85, Shah Syed Emdadul Haq wants that the demand for Rs. 1,62,532 under head "5C.—Survey and Settlement—Major Survey Operations" be reduced by Rs. 5,532. Here, again, thanks to the industry of Mr. McAlpin and the departments concerned, we are able to accept a reduction of not only Rs. 5,532 but of Rs. 7,000.

The total of all these reductions under the various items amounts to Rs. 87,750 which comes from the Survey and Settlement Budget, and adding to it a cut of Rs. 12,750 under the head "Survey and Settlement Drawing Office" which we propose to reduce and regarding which there is no motion for reduction, the total cut comes to Rs. 1,00,500. Therefore the total amount that I am prepared to reduce is Rs. 1,00,500.

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: I desire to express my gratitude to the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan for agreeing to reduce the demand in some cases and in others to cut down even in excess of what we demanded. For my part I desire to withdraw all my motions under this head.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 92,000 under the head "5A.—Land Acquisition Collectors—Clerks and Servants" be reduced by Rs. 10,000.

I beg formally to press this amendment upon the House. I have heard very carefully the statement of the Hon'ble the Member in charge. I also bear in mind the broad and the liberal policy which henceforth, as has been promised by His Excellency, will be governing the administration, that the major part of the money will be devoted to the development of the country and the administrative charges will be cut down. Following that principle, I believe that I am entitled to ask for a small cut of Rs. 10,000 on account of travelling allowances out of the big provision of Rs. 92,000, and I do it.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Your motion is quite specific and it does not say anything about travelling allowance.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: What I mean to suggest is that out of the whole amount of Rs. 92,000, let Rs. 10,000 go, so that the department will have a free hand to have it deducted from the provision under travelling allowance.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I repeat that that cannot be done under the terms of your amendment. Your amendment is quite specific. You ask that Rs. 10,000 be deducted from the total of Rs. 92,000 on account of clerks and servants, and if your motion is carried, the sum of Rs. 10,000 will have to be, or rather is supposed to be, deducted from the provision for clerks and servants.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: Yes, Sir, I press for it.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Very well; so long as you understand what you are doing.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I am afraid that this cannot be done for the following reason. As explained in the Green Book, the increase is more nominal than real owing to the inclusion of the pay—Rs. 28,000—of the establishments of the special land acquisition officials at Alipore, Howrah, and Burdwan for the first time in the budget under "5.—Land Revenue" instead of "22—General Administration." I mentioned it in my opening remarks, and I do not see how, in view of that fact, Annada Babu is pressing this motion.

I oppose the motion on behalf of Government.

The motion was then put and lost.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand under the head "5A.—Land Revenue—Charges of Administration—Land Acquisition Establishment—Travelling Allowance" for Rs. 20,000 be reduced by Rs. 12,000.

On referring to page 22 of the Civil Budget Estimate for 1923-24 it will be seen that a provision of Rs. 20,000 has been made under head "5A.—Land Revenue," etc. While the Government are never tired of repeating that they are pursuing a policy of general retrenchment and that all the departments have come under the "axe," we see that here is no evidence of reduction. On the contrary, a much larger and heavier amount has been budgeted for expenditure in the coming year than those provided for and spent under the previous budget. I do not know if the explanation that has already been given by the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan applies to this item also.

So far as I can gather, that explanation cannot apply to this case. A comparison of the budget figures will reveal that Rs. 9,520 was actually spent under this head in 1921-22 and a provision of Rs. 5,000 only was

made in the last budget. Now a sum of Rs. 20,000 is going to be provided for expenditure on account of travelling allowance in connection with such a minor establishment as that of the Land Acquisition Department. Moreover, when the number of officers has not been increased, I do not understand whether it is at all just and fair to budget for such a large sum as Rs. 20,000 for travelling allowance.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: It will be convenient if the other motions also could be taken together.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 20,000 for travelling allowance under the head "5A.—Land Acquisition Establishment" be reduced by Rs. 10,000.

While appreciating the generous cuts that have been made by the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur, our position is like that of Oliver Twist; we must cry for more. We have taken to heart and we have seriously considered the excellent advice offered to us to-day by His Excellency the Governor, but our position is like this. During the last two years, we have found that in some matters the Government's view and our view are diametrically opposite, and I think it would be foolish of us if we were to forego our opportunities in connection with these demands by not discussing the point of view that we wanted to press on the Government as regards the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee. I think it would also be an advantage for the Government to hear our view. Therefore, I beg to press my motion.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 20,000 under the head "5A.—Land Acquisition Establishment—Travelling Allowance" be reduced by Rs. 5,000.

The only thing I would mention is this. Throughout the whole budget I find very big amounts have been asked under different heads of travelling allowance. If here and there some amounts can be saved we might utilize them for better purposes. I do not see any reason why gentlemen who are in receipt of good pay, much more than what they expected in the beginning, should not forego a portion of their travelling allowance. So I press the amendment which stands in my name.

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Upendra Lal Ray Bahadur was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 2,54,000 under the head '5.—Land Revenue—Charges of Administration—Land Acquisition Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 2,000 from the provision for travelling allowances."

Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: I move that the demand for Rs. 2,54,300 under the head "5A.—Charges of Administration—Land Acquisition Establishment" be reduced by Rs. 100 (travelling allowance)

In proposing this amendment my object is not obstructive but to draw the attention of the Government and the Council to the fact that

considerable savings may be effected in the matter of travelling allowance. It is a well-known fact that travelling allowance is a source of income to many officers. When the Government has thought it necessary to frame rules to regulate the travelling allowance of the members of this Council, it is clear that extra care should be taken to see that travelling allowance bills do not become a source of income to the officers. If it be brought to the notice of the Government that an officer travelling by a lower class makes a bill for a higher class, he should be suitably punished. I find a sum of Rs. 20,000 has been budgeted for travelling allowance under this head, whereas Rs. 5,000 was budgeted in 1922-23 and Rs. 6,952 was actually spent in 1921-22. Why then is this big jump? Cannot the department manage with the same sum they spent for travelling allowance in 1921-22? With these few words I move that the travelling allowance be reduced and a thorough inquiry be made into the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: I intervene at this stage because there are many motions in regard to travelling allowances and I should like to explain the position generally. As regards this particular item, as the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan has just observed, the provision for the travelling allowance for the Land Acquisition Officers at Howrah, Alipore, and Burdwan has been put in here for the first time in the budget in addition to the District Land Acquisition establishment. The same reasons which have lead to the increase in the pay of clerks and officers in this budget head account for the increase here. Taking the position generally, most of these motions relating to travelling allowance follow the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee. The Retrenchment Committee in their report on the question of travelling allowance referred to the fact that in the year 1921-22 the total expenditure was Rs. 41 lakhs and odd and they suggested that we could get a saving of Rs. 7 lakhs on that account. Now, the provision for travelling allowance for the coming year has been cut down in many places; a very big reduction, for example, has been made in the Excise Department. Our total travelling allowance for 1923-24 is Rs. 38 lakhs, which is a decrease of Rs. 3 lakhs as compared with the figure on which the Retrenchment Committee were working. So we have already saved Rs. 3 lakhs out of the Rs. 7 lakhs suggested by the Retrenchment Committee. And we are prepared to go further. I propose to call upon the departments, as soon as the session is over, to intimate to us further retrenchments amounting in the total to Rs. 2 to Rs. 2½ lakhs, that is to say, I take it that we shall be able to save Rs. 2 to Rs. 2½ lakhs more than what has been effected in the budget. I do not know where exactly we can make this cut; I must ask the departments because of the different rates of travelling allowance applicable to different modes of transit. In some departments the expenditure is mainly incurred on train journeys; we want to cut that. But in the districts road journeys are

more common and we cannot cut the provision so much as we can under train journeys. In other cases most of the allowances are fixed travelling allowances; we cannot touch them without a careful examination. It is impossible for us, therefore, to say that under one head or another so much can be cut. But we will cut on the total a sum of from Rs. 2 to Rs. 2½ lakhs as a beginning. And this will cover most of these motions. We shall also revise the rules, so that by next year there will be a considerable saving. In view of the fact that we have already saved Rs. 3 lakhs and also that we undertake to save another Rs. 2 to Rs. 2½ lakhs, giving a total of Rs. 5½ lakhs, thus going very near to the Rs. 7 lakhs suggested by the Retrenchment Committee, I would ask the members of this House to trust us in the Finance Department to see that the retrenchments are made and not to worry about these motions.

The motions standing in the names of Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, Babu Annada Charan Dutta, and Babu Hem Chandra Nasker were then put and lost.

The following motions were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 4,000 under the head '5A.—Land Acquisition Establishment—House rent and other allowances' be reduced by Rs. 500."

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 2,54,000 under the head '5.—Land Revenue—Charges of Administration' be reduced by Rs. 3,000 from the provision for law charges."

"That the demand of Rs. 2,54,000 under the hea d'5—Land Revenue—Charges of Administration—Land Acquisition Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 2,000 from the provision for travelling allowance."

The following motion standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq was, in the absence of the mover, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 70,400 under the head '5A.—Charges of Administration—Land Acquisition' be reduced by Rs. 10,400."

Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 2,54,000 under the head "5.—Land Revenue—Charges of Administration" be reduced by Re. 1 only from the provision for the land acquisition establishment.

My amendment is a peculiar one. I want a reduction of Re. 1 and the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur, in his munificence, has promised a reduction of over a lakh of rupees! So, my amendment is nowhere. The real meaning of my amendment is this. We are all out for retrenchment. Now it seems that the House, including the Government, is for "retrenchment of the time of this House" by saying that the Government are going to do all that we may reasonably suggest or all that is reasonable in the

recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee. As that is so, we want retrenchment; we want the balancing of the accounts of the estimates. We want a large surplus; we want money for expenditure on the nation-building departments, and also we want to show, by development and otherwise, to the other provinces, that we are much better off. Of course, that will make us the object of jealousy of the other provinces and our relationship with the Central Government, may not be a very pleasant one; because I am sure, as soon as we are in a better position or in a better condition, the Central Government will want more from us. However, we have to balance our accounts, and it is desirable that the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee be carried out, if not in full, at least partially; so that our position may be materially improved. And it seems to me, that the whole Government, particularly the Finance Department under the Hon'ble Mr. Donald, and the amiable Secretary, Mr. Marr, are also out for retrenchment. They want to cut down as much as they can. If that is done, I think that we ought to be satisfied; and there will be no fresh taxation. No more taxation; we have reached the bedrock-limit of taxation; and let us stop there. If there be no more taxation, and if more money is to be got by retrenchment, we will all be a happy family. We do not grudge paying high salaries and increments to all our officers. That is all I have to say. I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 21,558 under the head "5A.—Certificate Establishment—Temporary Establishment" be reduced by Rs. 3,558.

I quite remember the spirit in which the Hon'ble Mr. Donald made his observations that these small amounts would be very carefully considered and cuts, wherever possible, made. This amendment, however, has got another peculiar feature, viz., that it has been noticed in practical experience that very small amounts which might be put off for future years sometimes form the subject-matter of separate certificate cases, and additional hands are entertained for work on that account. The ultimate result is that by way of *tallabana* on process fee and the like a much bigger amount is realized from the poor people than the few annas which may be the value of a certificate case. These amounts may be very easily consolidated. If small amounts were allowed to accumulate for two or three years, there will be no necessity for additional hands. In that view I press my motion.

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: I withdraw the following motion which stands in my name:—

"That the demand of Rs. 2,54,000 under the head '5.—Land Revenue—Charges of Administration' be reduced by Rs. 3,500 from the

provision for the temporary establishment in the certificate establishment.'

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: My amendment relates to the same item in the budget to which the amendment standing in the name of Rai Upendra Lal Ray Bahadur refers, and in view of what has been said by the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [LAND REVENUE] (Mr. M. C. McALPIN): I rise to oppose the motion of Babu Annada Charan Dutta on behalf of Government. I might mention that this motion gave an enormous amount of trouble in order to find out why there was an excess in the budget. I searched in the Revenue Department, the Finance Department, the Board's office, and finally I ran it to earth in the Accountant-General's office. The mover of the motion is perfectly aware of the conditions under which the excess establishment is employed in Collectors' offices and I need not, therefore, refer him to the rule in the Certificate Manual which states that under certain definite conditions the Collector can employ temporary establishment. The excess here is accounted for by the fact that in the districts of Dacca, Mymensingh, and Faridpur next year there is an excess in the number of certificates, to cope with which an extra provision is necessary to the extent of nearly Rs. 5,000. There are certain savings elsewhere which will reduce this extra provision required to the extent of Rs. 3,558 mentioned in the motion. The mover has, however, gone into the whole question of the policy of issuing certificates. I do not think the Council will expect me to go into that, nor will they approve of his suggestion that the money should be allowed to remain owing to Government for two or three years. I have already explained why the excess of Rs. 3,558 for this year is required, and I therefore oppose the motion.

The motion standing in the name of Babu Annada Charan Dutta was then put and lost.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: In view of the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur having accepted part of my motion, may I amend it by substituting Rs. 2,000 in place of Rs. 3,365?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Yes.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs 9,365 for travelling allowance under the head "5A.—Partition Establishment" be reduced by Rs 2,000.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I accept the motion.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I accept Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta's amendment and beg to withdraw mine.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 9,365 for travelling allowance under the head '5A.—Land Revenue—Charges of Administration—Partition Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 3,000."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: In view of the observations made from the Government bench, I beg to withdraw my motions.

The following motions were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 6,095 under the head '5A.—Kanungo Establishment—Temporary Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 1,500."

"That the demand of Rs. 28,000 under the head '5A.—Kanungo Establishment—Travelling Allowance' be reduced by Rs. 5,000.'

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 2,54,000 under the head '5.—Land Revenue—Charges of Administration' be reduced by Rs. 2,500 from the provision for the travelling allowance of the kanungo establishment."

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Satish Chandra Mukharji was, in the absence of the mover, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 807 under the head 'Kanungo Establishment—Office Expenses and Miscellaneous' be reduced to Rs. 400."

The following motions were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA and SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand of Rs. 12,600 under the head '5A.—Road Cess Valuation and Revaluation Estblishment—Deputy and Sub-Deputy Collectors' be reduced by Rs. 3,000."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 42,006 under the head '5A.—Road Cess Valuation and Revaluation Establishment—Clerks' be reduced by Rs. 1,000."

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: That the demand of Rs. 2,54,000 under the head '5.—Land Revenue—Charges of Administration' be reduced by Rs. 4,000 or by that amount which represents the pay of one of the four officers and the pay of one of the 59 clerks in the Road Cess Valuation and Revaluation Establishment."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 53,000 under the head '5A.—Road Cess Valuation and Revaluation Establishment—Temporary Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 13,000."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 3,000 under the head '5A.—Road Cess Valuation and Revaluation Establishment—Travelling Allowance' be reduced by Rs. 1,000."

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: I move that the demand of Rs. 2,54,000 under the head "5.—Land Revenue—Charges of Administration" be reduced by Rs. 30,863."

After the generous assurance given by His Excellency the Governor that every effort will be made to make the maximum reduction in all departments, I for one do not feel inclined to see deep cuts effected in the budget which is before us. I would be quite content to leave matters to His Excellency and feel certain that he would cause much deeper cuts to be made and to release a large amount of money to provide for education, sanitation, and for improving the general condition of the people and the miserable condition of the tenantry. I look upon him as the only man who is disposed to care for and feel for those who are dying in hundreds and thousands. We are deeply grateful to His Excellency for the assurance which he has just now given us to that effect. But from what I have heard from the Hon'ble the Member of Government who has told us that under the head "Land Revenue" he proposes a cut of Rs. 1,00,500, I feel inclined to press my motion for the acceptance of the House. It might appear at first sight that a big reduction is proposed from a small item of expenditure, but things are not what they seem. The actual expenditure under this head is Rs. 7,49,300 and not Rs. 2,54,000 only. So, I propose a reduction from the amount of Rs. 7,49,300. A slight comparison of figures will immediately show that Government have gone on piling expenses on expenses in quite a heartless manner and it seems that they do not realize that they, as trustees of the people's money, have the bounden duty to exercise a much greater care and caution in expending the same. The actual sum spent on this head in 1921-22 was Rs. 6,05,521, but Government have provided for a much larger amount in 1922-23 i.e., Rs. 6,95,520, or Rs. 90,000 over and above the expenditure of 1921-22. The Hon'ble the Member in charge may say that they have given effect to the Salaries Committee's report and

provided for other contingencies. Whatever it might be, the Council is bound to consider this as part of that particular scheme. Next, the revised estimate of 1922-23 provides for Rs. 7,10,000, that is, Rs. 20,000 more than the estimate. In favour of this, Government could say in justification that the recoveries from local bodies under the head land acquisition and certificate establishment fell short by Rs. 90,000, but the recoveries that were not made then will be made now, so the expenses must be much less than the Government have provided for. That is the reason why we expected that a much greater reduction should be effected this year. The estimate for this year is Rs. 7,49,000 under this head and the estimate for 1922-23 is Rs. 6,95,250. Here we find that Government have further saddled the public with an extra expenditure of Rs. 9,54,250, while the difference between the two figures is Rs. 54,500. The difference between the estimate for 1923-24, i.e., Rs. 7,49,000, and the actuals of 1921-22, i.e., Rs. 6,95,556, is about Rs. 1,49,000. May I ask if the Council is ready to tolerate such an unheard of increase—an increase of Rs. 1,49,000 over the expenditure already incurred in the year 1921-22, and the proposal that is made in the budget is for an expenditure of Rs. 7,49,000. Government may say that this is partly due to the fact that the salaries of the Special Land Acquisition Officer and the Sub-Deputy Collector under him in the 24-Parganas and the Land Acquisition Officers of Howrah and Burdwan have been debited to the head "22.—General Administration." But we ought to remember that while this item provides for an additional expenditure of Rs. 30,000, Rs. 31,000 will be recovered this year; so, the expenditure should be at least Rs. 1,000 less than the expenditure of last year. If you take the earlier figures, you will find greater and greater differences, and you will find a systematic attempt on the part of Government to increase their expenditure from year to year. Government should cut down Rs. 1,00,000 from this head, and I have proposed a small reduction of Rs. 30,863 which the Government and the Council will readily accept.

Turning to the discussion of the particular item in the budget under this head, there is a provision at page 22 for Rs. 84,300 on account of Land Acquisition Officers' pay. The Hon'ble the Member for Government has explained that a few more officers have been added, and in respect of these officers I should like to make a few remarks. The list of officers employed on land acquisition work will show that the first item of expenditure is the First Land Acquisition Collector in Calcutta on a pay of Rs. 2,000 plus overseas allowance of Rs. 250 besides other allowances.

Mr. M. C. McALPIN: Is he in order?

Mr. PRESIDENT: How does this arise, Maulvi Sahib? We are discussing one particular item, and not half a hundred items. Confine yourself please to this particular item.

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: My point is this, that as this particular item covers all the expenses under head 5A, so I can discuss particular items to show that it is possible for Government to make a big reduction.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You cannot discuss a non-voted item, to begin with, and next, you can only discuss a particular item. You cannot range over a large tract of country. You must confine yourself to one item and deal with that item only.

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: I beg to point out to the House that if we look at the expenditure on the land acquisition establishment, we will come to know at once that a good deal of money is wasted over there. The same work could possibly be done by a lesser number of men and on lesser pay. You will find that these officers are in receipt of a handsome amount as pay, besides many allowances. Is it not a fact that these officers under Government are paid with a view to perform certain duties towards the people? Why then should particular allowances be given? My suggestion is this, that Government, if they so desire, could stop the allowances and make some saving under this head. So, I think that Government should make a reduction of Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 15,000 in the this particular item alone. In respect of clerks under the same head—Land Acquisition Establishment—it has been pointed out by the Hon'ble the Member that because a few additional circles have been created, more clerks have become necessary; but here, also, if they so desire, Government could effect a good saving. Next, I refer to the item of travelling allowance.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You cannot go into the question of travelling allowance.

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: My resolution covers all these particular items.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I cannot permit you to travel over ground that has already been covered. All these matters have been disposed of and you cannot reopen them.

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: My submission to the House is that it is quite possible for Government to make a very large amount of saving if they so desire. They can also find out that the expenses, which they incurred before in earlier years, had been raised by leaps and bounds; this, I am afraid, they ought not to have allowed in the interests of the people. I am afraid if I were to touch on this matter generally, I cannot give facts and figures, and therefore it is useless for me to support my amendment without them. Further, Sir, there are amendments, for instance, with regard to the law charges. These have something to do with my amendment. Now I take the item with regard to the certificate

establishment. Here, too, Government, if they so desired, could effect a lot of saving. The revised estimate for 1922-23 was prepared for Rs. 42,000, but you will find that the estimate for next year makes a provision for Rs. 63,000. As I told the House before, I wish to point out that in this particular year they are making greater recoveries than they did last year. For instance, in the year 1922-23 they got Rs. 12,000 from local bodies for land acquisition establishment, while they are going to recover Rs. 92,000 under this head next year. Further, they declared that this was one of the items which it was necessary to raise in the budget for 1922-23. There is another similar item under the certificate establishment. Next year they expect to realize Rs. 30,000, while in the revised budget for 1922-23 it is only Rs. 23,000. What I say is that when the Government say that they have to provide for extra officers——

[At this stage the member reached the time-limit.]

Mr. PRESIDENT: As you have exceeded the time-limit, you must resume your seat now, Maulvi Sahib.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: "That the demand of Rs. 2,54,300 under head '5A.—Charges of Administration' be reduced by Rs. 25,000."

The following motion standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq was, in the absence of the mover, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 2,54,000 under head '5A.—Charges of Administration' be reduced by Rs. 24,300."

Mr. M. C. McALPIN: I rise to oppose the motion of Maulvi Ekramul Huq on behalf of Government. So far as I have followed the latter part of the mover's speech, the burden of the said speech was that Government, if it so desired, could decrease the staff, could decreas the pay generally, and that everything was wrong in the budget. Well, Sir, we have had the remarks of the Retrenchment Committee on the subject of decrease of pay and the reduction of work, and until their recommendations are considered and orders passed thereon, we can do nothing in respect of this budget provision. The mover has himself given the reasons why we cannot get down to the actuals for the year 1921-22 which, in his motion, he intends to do. He referred to the extra provision for the establishments of the special land acquisition offices at Alipore, Howrah ,and Burdwan, which were formerly budgeted under the head "22.—General Administration," and that accounts for an excess of Rs. 56,000, whereas his deduction amounts to Rs. 30,000 and odd. He also mentioned that the actuals for 1921-22 did not contain the pay of clerks on the recently revised scale, for examlpe, the mover will

find that the pay of the permanent establishment certificate clerks h been increased from Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 40,000 on this account and forth. Then, again, the budget contains provision for the lon deferred increase of pay of district kanungos from Rs. 43,000 odd Rs. 66,000 odd, to which the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur Burdwan has already referred. All these reasons amply account for th increase over the actuals for the year 1921-22. I must, therefore, oppos the motion.

The motion standing in the name of Maulvi Ekramul Huq was the put and a division taken, with the following result:—

AYES.

Afzal, Nawabzada K. M., Khan Bahadur.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Aley, Mr. S. Mahboob.
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Banerjea, Dr. Pramathanath.
Bhattacharji, Babu Ram Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kisheri Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Rahmatjan.
Chowdhury, Maulvi Fazlal Karim.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.
Dess, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Dutt, Mr. Ajoy Chunder.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Maitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.
Roy, Raja Manilell Singh.
Salam, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Abdus.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.

NOES.

Ahmed, Maulvi Rah Uddin.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Birley, Mr. L.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Das, Mr. S. R.
De, Mr. K. C.
De, Rai Bahadur Panindralal.
Deare, Major-General S. H.
Dey, Mr. C. C.
Donald, the Hon'ble Mr. J.
Donovan, Mr. J. T.
Dorequl, Mr. K. G. M.
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
Ghose, Mr. D. C.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Harnett, Mr. W. W.
Huntingford, Mr. D. T.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the.
Mallik, Babu Surendra Nath.
Marr, Mr. A.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukerjee, Mr. S. C.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhone.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Philip, Mr. J. Y.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal.
Robertson, Mr. F. W.
Ray, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Ray, Mr. Bijoyprasad Singh.
Ray, Mr. D. N.
Ray, Mr. J. N.
Ray, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Rose, Mr. G. F.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.
Stephenson, the Hon'ble Mr. H. L.
Travers, Mr. W. L.
Villiers, Mr. F. E. E.

The Ayes being 34 and the Noes 42, the motion was lost.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Rai Bahadur, before you begin I must tell you that you cannot move the last part of your motion; that is clearly out of

order. You can only move up to the words "be reduced by Rs. 10,000." The rest is out of order.

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 6,22,000 under the head "5.—Land Revenue—Management of Government Estates" be reduced by Rs. 10,000.

I find that in this list the number of Deputy and Sub-Deputy Collectors has been increased from 25 to 28 and there is a reduction in the number of executive subordinates from 74 to 71. May I know whether there has been any change in the number of officers?

Mr. M. C. McALPIN: This is a printing mistake. There is no change in the number of officers employed under the voted head.

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: In that case I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The following motion is out of order, inasmuch as it does not mention a specific sum:—

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: "That the demand of Rs. 84,300 for pay of officers, under the head '5B.—Management of Government Estates' be reduced by the amount required for the pay of three additional Deputy or Sub-Deputy Collectors."

The following motion standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 84,300 under the head '5B.—Management of Government Estates—Pay of Officers' be reduced by Rs. 5,100."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 84,300 under the head "5B.—Management of Government Estates—Collection of Revenue—Deputy and Sub-Deputy Collectors" be reduced by Rs. 20,393.

The amount which I ask to be reduced does, in my opinion, represent the pay of the three additional officers.

Mr. M. C. McALPIN: I have already explained that this is a printing mistake.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: Well, in that case, I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motions were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 84,300 for pay of officers under the head '5B.—Management of Government Estates' be reduced by Rs. 8,000."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand for Rs. 31,003 under the head '5B.—Management of Gvernment Estates—Temporary Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

Mr. S. M. BOSE: "That the demand fo Rrs. 41,000 under the head '5B.—Managment of Government Estates' for travelling allowance be reduced by Rs. 10,000."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 41,000 for travelling allowance under the head "5B.—Collection of Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 5,000.

After the general statement that has been made by the Hon'ble the Member in charge regarding his intentions to reduce the travelling allowance charges, I hope the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Revenue Department would be pleased to reduce the travelling allowance charges to the sum of Rs. 20,000. Moreover, this sum is in excess of the amount that was kept in the present year and has not been justified. I hope the Hon'ble the Member will accept my motion.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I support the motion, which is exactly the same as my one, for the reasons set forth by Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: The local officers estimate that Rs. 40,647 will be required next year, and the Accountant-General, having regard to actuals, has put it at Rs. 41,000. In view of the facts, we are not justified in changing the amount, even though the original budget provision for 1922-23 was Rs. 36,000. I must, therefore, oppose the motion.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 6,22,000 under the head '5.—Land Revenue—Management of Government Estates' be reduced by Rs. 3,500 from the provision for the travelling allowance of the collection of revenue establishment."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: In view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble the Member, I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 60,000 under the head '5B.—Management of Government Estates—Office Expenses and Miscellaneous' be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 4,92,000 under the head "5B.—Management of Government Estates—Collection of Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 12,000 .

[At this stage the Hon'ble the President left the Chamber, and Mr. Deputy-President took the Chair.]

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: The amendment standing in my name runs thus: "That the demand for Rs. 1,40,000 under the head '5B.—Management of Government Estates—Outlay on Improvements' be reduced by Rs. 30,000."

In the White Book, on page 26, we have got practically everything blank except that in the total there is a provision of Rs. 1,30,000, which is voted. So far as I have been able to gather, this money has been asked for the purpose of improving certain Government estates in the Sundarbans and elsewhere with a view to obtaining greater revenue in the end than would be obtainable through the middlemen. I ask, is there any necessity for Government to take up these things? I believe many people, either in the shape of middlemen or corporate bodies, would come forward to take up Government estates and improve them. If that is possible, Government should not take up things in their own hands, and the money which could better be utilized otherwise should not be spent on this. Therefore, I have asked for this small cut.

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Fanindralal De Bahadur was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 1,30,000 for the outlay on improvement under the head '5B.—Management of Government Estates' be reduced by Rs. 20,000."

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: I formally move that the demand of Rs. 6,22,000 under the head "5.—Land Revenue—Management of Government Estates" be reduced by Rs. 36,000.

My submission to the House is this—and I intend to be brief—that if they will look to the budget, they will find that even under this head the expenditure has been rising by leaps and bounds every year, and here too, if Government be so inclined, they could actually effect a lot of more saving than has been declared by the Hon'ble the Member in charge. The Hon'ble the Member in charge has been pleased to state that out of the total expenditure of Rs. 32,00,000 he is for the present prepared to accept a

reduction of rupees one lakh and a few hundreds. With respect to the actual amount of expenditure under Revenue, I have submitted before the House that if they will look to the actuality of things, they will find that the expenditure under Land Revenue is not Rs. 32,00,000 as has been shown in the budget, but it is many lakhs more. When I spoke on another motion, I pointed that though I demanded a reduction of the grant of Rs. 2,54,000, the actual expenditure under that head was more than that—it was Rs. 7,49,000. Similarly, if other items are looked into, it will be found that the expenditure under Land Revenue instead of being Rs. 32,00,000 will be much more, and the small reduction that I have proposed is with a view to meet the great need for money in other directions.

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Satish Chandra Mukharji was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn :—

"That the demand of Rs. 6,22,000 under the head 'Management of Government Estates' be reduced by Rs. 18,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 6,22,000 under the head "5B.—Management of Government Estates" be reduced by Rs. 18,000.

Mr. M. C. McALPIN: I rise to oppose these motions on behalf of Government. The mover has again brought forward the proposition that Government can do whatever they like in the way of reduction if they are inclined to do so. This budget head deals with the collection of revenue in Government estates and with the outlay on improvements in Government estates. Therefore, it deals with two distinct items, namely: first, the collection of revenue; and secondly, the outlay of money on improvements which are revenue-producing. The mover says that if we like we can decrease this amount. That is not, however, the case. The Board of Revenue, as a matter of fact, far from wanting to decrease this Rs. 6,60,000 or Rs. 6,22,000, asked for over Rs. 8,00,000, of which a large amount was to be spent on revenue-producing improvements. They complained that they had been starved; the Collectors wrote to them and said that Government were not doing their duty as landlords and in some areas they were nearly in danger of becoming model bad landlords instead of good landlords. I may explain that this provision is made up of certain definite items—(1) there is 9½ per cent. on the estimated collections for 1922-23; (2) there is a grant for agricultural improvements, viz., embankments, etc., to the extent of Rs. 50,000. Both of these grants are recognized as obligatory and they are revenue-producing. In addition, there are two special revenue-producing grants for the development of the Sundarbans in the 24-Parganas and Bakarganj. The total amount thus arrived at—Rs. 6,60,000 plus the contribution of Rs. 19,000 which is paid to hospitals and dispensaries in khas mahals and is provided for in the Medical Budget—is what we have provided for; but, as I have said before

it does not nearly represent what the Board of Revenue have asked for the management and improvement of Government estates. I must therefore oppose the motion.

The motions standing in the names of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq, Babu Annada Charan Dutta, and Maulvi Ekramul Huq were then put and lost.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: Before I move my motion I wish at the outset to submit that this is only a consequential amendment. This proposal follows from amendment No. 71, which also stands in my name. I have put in a number of amendments asking for reduction under several smaller heads which I thought would be necessary if item No. 71 were carried. Therefore it would be necessary to mention briefly at this stage what that amendment is for. In Chittagong there are a certain number of estates which are known as——

Mr. M. C. McALPIN: I might shorten discussion, Sir, by saying that the motion refers to the pay of the Personal Assistant to the Director of Surveys.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: Exactly so; I thank Mr. McAlpin for having stated what I wanted to say but could not put clearly. My suggestion is that if the major operations covered by item No. 71 are abandoned, then there will be a corresponding reduction of all these items, beginning from the very top down to the establishment. That is my point. If survey operations in Chittagong are given up, will it still be necessary to entertain this particular staff? If it be so, I do not want to press my amendment; otherwise I do.

Mr. DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (Babu Surendra Nath Ray): Please be positive about what you wish to do.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: If the subject-matter of my amendment relates to another office and has no direct connection with amendment No. 71, I do not like to press it.

Mr. M. C. McALPIN: I may say that it has no direct connection with item No. 71.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: In that case I beg to withdraw my amendment.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 4,650 for executive subordinates under the head '5C.—Survey and Settlement—Controlling Office' be reduced by Rs. 2,000."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 4,650 for executive subordinates under the head "5C.—Survey and Settlement—Controlling Office" be reduced by Rs. 2,000.

I find, Sir, that it is a very curious demand under the head "Controlling Office—Executive Subordinates—District Surveys." The post of Director was a new creation and I am informed that it has already been abolished from this month. I think most of the members here will remember having read the account of the farewell accorded to Colonel Hirst, the first and the last Director. The department has been amalgamated with the Department of Land Records. A good many posts have been abolished, but it passes our comprehension as to how the budget provision for a post which has already been abolished can be increased to Rs. 40,000 from Rs. 28,000 budgeted for 1922-23; but as it is a non-voted item, I am perhaps trespassing on forbidden ground. At any rate, I believe the Council will not agree to the creation of a new post in a department which has already been abolished or amalgamated with another department which has very little work to do. On the force of the promise of Government that maximum economy in staff will be effected by the amalgamation, the Council should not allow any increase over the budget estimate of last year.

Mr. M. C. McALPIN: I rise to oppose this motion on behalf of Government. I did not quite follow the arguments of the mover when he talked about the post being abolished, but I thought he referred to this post until I discovered that he was referring to a non-voted item, which he cannot do in this connection. I was then not quite certain whether he considered that this was a new post. The facts are these: the office of the Director of Land Records and that of the Director of Surveys have been amalgamated in one person. At the present moment the office establishment of the Director of Surveys and the office establishment of the Director of Land Records are distinct. Their work is entirely different and at the present moment there is, in accordance with the sanctioned scale, a Personal Assistant in charge of each office. At the moment we do not know whether we can do without one of these men, but until we have decided otherwise, the pay of both posts must remain in the budget; therefore, the pay of the office of the Personal Assistant to the Director of Surveys is to be found in this budget. The reason for the increase is entirely owing to the revision of the pay of the ministerial establishment. During the current year his pay was met from the provision of Rs. 3,930 and the provision shown in the budget for the revision of the pay of the establishment. The figure Rs. 4,650 is actually required for his pay during 1923-24, taking into account the annual increment to which he was entitled. If this motion is given effect to, the Personal Assistant's pay will be decreased by Rs. 50 a month. I therefore oppose the motion.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: After the explanation given by Mr. McAlpin, I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn :—

"That the demand of Rs. 18,969 under the head '5C.—Survey and Settlement—Controlling Office—Clerks' be be reduced to Rs. 17,629."

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Annada Charan Dutta was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn :—

"That the demand of Rs. 500 under the head '5C.—Survey and Settlement—Controlling Office—Travelling Allowance' be refused."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I press this motion that the demand of Rs. 10,856 under the head "5C.—Survey and Settlement—Controlling Office—Rents, Rates and Taxes and Office Expenses and Miscellaneous" be reduced by Rs. 2,856.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: If Annada Babu will change his figure from Rs. 2,856 to Rs. 5,250, I will accept it. (Laughter.)

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I am very glad to be able to accept that figure; it was due entirely to my ignorance that the department could make a double cut. The facts put down in the budget make it rather difficult for men of small intelligence like myself to find out the right figure. I ask permission to change this figure of Rs. 2,856 to Rs. 5,250, if you will kindly permit it. Sir, I move the amendment in that form.

The motion was then put in the following amended form and agreed to :—

"That the demand of Rs. 10,856 under the head '5C.—Survey and Settlement—Controlling Office—Rents, Rates and Taxes and Office Expenses and Miscellaneous' be reduced by Rs. 5,250."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 1,850 under the head "5C.—Survey and Settlement—Drawing Office—House Rent and other Allowances" be refused.

I have already pointed out to this Council when I moved amendment No. 49 how the controlling office, which has been of very recent creation, had been subsequently condemned as superfluous. Government have

already abolished the post of Director of Surveys from this month and have amalgamated this office with that of the Director of Land Records. Further, Government have definitely stated that the maximum economy would be effected. If that is the position taken up by the Government, I believe the Council will not listen to any increase of expenditure in this connection.

I want your indulgence for a moment to refer to another matter. In regard to what I have said, I find that, as ill-luck would have it, a house has been built at Alipore at a cost of Rs. 6,20,000 from the depleted treasuries of the province, and I learn more than Rs. 5,50,000 has already been spent on this building. I believe this house must have—

Mr. M. C. McALPIN: May I rise to a point of order? The office at Alipore has nothing to do with the house rent granted to officers.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I am anxious to point out that the house being there and there being no particular purpose at the present moment which can keep the whole house occupied, a portion of the same may be occupied by the officers for whom this house rent has been budgeted. Government may not take this seriously, but I am serious when I say that in the large building which has been built at a cost of several lakhs of rupees and for which we cannot find sufficient offices to be accommodated, it will be better if we find other purposes which might require accommodation and may be transferred there. This is the view which has prompted me to move this amendment.

[At this stage the Hon'ble the President returned to the Chair.]

Mr. M. C. McALPIN: I rise to oppose this motion on behalf of Government. I think there is nothing to oppose. The motion is to reduce the charge allowance of certain officers in the Survey Department, and the mover talks about the Survey Office in Alipore and suggests that another office should be moved there. The Survey Office at Alipore has nothing whatever to do with this; these are allowances granted to Survey officers. Rupees 1,850 is for the Drawing Office and Rs. 2,370 is under Major Survey Operations, and the charge allowances are divided between these two budget heads. They are sanctioned allowances, and if this motion is carried, these allowances will have to cease to be paid to the officers who are entitled to them. I therefore oppose this motion.

The motion was put and lost.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 1,05,660 under the head "5C.—Survey and Settlement—Major Settlement Operations" for pay of other gazetted officers be reduced by Rs. 10,660.

I move this for the simple reason that while last year the amount was Rs. 1,93,000, this year it has been put down at Rs. 1,05,660 on account of certain reductions and abandonment of operations perhaps. As new operations have been dropped, one or two Settlement Officers should be done away with.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Annada Babu, will you please move No. 55 as well?

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: As regards No. 55, "Executive Subordinates" it is very difficult to find out which class of officers, is really meant by this. We know of Assistant Settlement Officers, Kanungos and Settlement Officers, but under the term "Executive Subordinate" a certain class of officers must have been brought in, and for them it appears that about Rs. 11,000 has been asked for, which is more than the amount budgeted last year. But considering the condition of the country financially, and also as no profit is likely to be obtained by employing an increased number of officers, I move that the demand of Rs. 3,92,080 under the head "5C.—Survey and Settlement—Major Settlement Operations—Executive Subordinates" be reduced by Rs. 25,000.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: As regards No. 54, the actuals for 1921-22 were nearly Rs. 2¼ lakhs, the budget estimate for the current year was Rs. 2 lakhs, and the estimate for next year, that is, the year under discussion, is just over Rs. 1 lakh. It has been ascertained that the Director of Land Records has been economical in his requirement of gazetted officers, and therefore no further reduction can be made. For this reason I have to oppose this motion.

Turning to No. 55, the mover suggests that the demand under head "Survey and Settlement—Major Settlement Operations" be reduced by Rs. 25,000. Now, this can only be effected either by reducing the number of kanungos or reducing their pay. As regards the reduction of their pay, the kanungos do not fall within the category of the class of officers whose pay has been recommended for reduction by the Retrenchment Committee. As regards the reduction in the number, the establishment of kanungos is under reduction in consequence of the decrease of the survey and settlement programme, but the amount actually budgeted for is now actually required for the coming year, and therefore the motion has got to be opposed.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: Before the motion is put, may

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: They are actuals, and I cannot explain off hand how they came to be exceeded.

The motions were then put and lost.

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Satish Chandra Mukharji was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 49,700 under the head '5.—Land Revenue—Survey and Settlement—Major Settlement Operations—Travelling Allowance' be reduced to Rs. 12,000."

The following motions were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 49,700 under the head '5C.—Survey and Settlement—Major Settlement Operations—Travelling Allowance' be reduced by Rs. 10,000."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA and Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand of Rs. 37,875 under the head '5C.—Survey and Settlement—Major Settlement Operations—House Rent and other Allowances' be reduced by Rs. 7,875."

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 18,95,000 under the head '5.—Land Revenue—Survey and Settlement' be reduced by Rs. 1,875 from the provision for house rent and other allowances in connection with major settlement operations."

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand for Rs. 7,76,290 for job work under the head "5C—Survey and Settlement—Major Settlement Operations" be reduced by Rs. 45,000.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA and Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 18,000 under the head '5C.—Survey and Settlement—Purchase of tents, stores, etc.,' be reduced by Rs. 9,000."

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: As these items refer to the same subject, and as the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan has already announced that he is going to accept No. 65, I beg leave to withdraw the following motion:—

"That the demand of Rs. 18,95,000 under the head '5.—Land Revenue—Survey and Settlement—Major Settlement Operations' be reduced by Rs. 50,000 from the provision for office expenses and miscellaneous in connection with major settlement operations."

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 1,22,750 under the head "5C.—Survey and Settlement—Major Settlement Operations—Office Expenses and Miscellaneous" be reduced by Rs. 25,000."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Satish Chandra Mukharji was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 9,32,568 under the head '5.—Land Revenue—Survey and Settlement—Major Settlement Operations' for supplies and services and contingencies be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand for Rs. 15,49,550 under the head "5C.—Major Settlement Operations" be reduced by Rs. 1,06,550.

In spite of the reduction of Rs. 70,000 that has been made, I beg to move for the reduction of the lump grant, both as a measure of economy and as a means of discussing the policy on which the Settlement Department is carried on. Sir, a study of the budget figures under the head "Major Settlement Operations" furnishes us with the way in which a department can be de-Indianized. In the general discussion of the budget I said that the item of non-voted grant was increased in this department, whereas the item of the voted grant was being reduced. Since the Government decided to reduce the four-party basis to a two-party one, a great deal of expense has been cut down in the voted items in the Provincial and Subordinate Services, but in the Imperial Services, in the non-voted items, expenses have been gradually going up. This year it has come to——

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I rise to a point of order. Is a discussion allowed on a non-voted item, as Mr. Dutta is doing?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Mr. Dutta, you cannot discuss the amount of a non-voted item.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I am not discussing the amounts, but may I not discuss the policy on which this department is managed, Sir?

Mr. PRESIDENT: You can do that, so long as you do not discuss the question of money. Whatever money is non-voted, cannot be discussed. But you can discuss the policy.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Very well. From inquiries, I

Provincial Service men as Settlement Officers in this department, and that Government were fully satisfied with their work. In view of that, and in view of the reformed administration, the main principle of which is the Indianization of the Services, I do not think Government have any justification to take away the Provincial Service men altogether from the cadre of Settlement Officers. I think it is not only an injurious but also a retrograde step, and I hope the Hon'ble the Member in charge will be pleased to see that the Provincial Service men are given a better chance, so that the principle of the Indianization of the Services may at any rate be given effect to in this department, which deals with the village people. Sir, who can understand the village people better than their own men? The Hon'ble the Member has admitted that Indian Settlement Officers have succeeded very well. Therefore, I must press this view, and hope that he will be pleased to see that the Provincial Service Officers are given a better chance in this department.

In spite of reduction of work in the Settlement Department the expenditure has gone up by more than a lakh. The Hon'ble the Member has been pleased to reduce it by Rs. 75,000, but I am afraid that it is not enough. That is why I propose that reduction be made by the amount I have suggested.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Do I understand that you want the demand to be reduced by Rs. 31,300?

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Yes. As a cut of Rs. 70,000 has already been made, this amount will make up my cut of one lakh.

The Hon'ble the President called on Shah Syed Emdadul Haq to move the motion standing in his name.

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, FINANCE DEPARTMENT (Mr. A. Marr): I rise to a point of order. Does not this motion fail?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Yes, it falls to the ground; but he can speak to the motion of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HUQ addressed the Council in Bengali, in support of the motion.

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Upendra Lal Ray Bahadur was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 18,95,000 under the head '5.—Land Revenue—Survey and Settlement' be reduced by Rs. 200 from the provision for travelling allowance in connection with minor settlement operations."

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta in moving for this reduction has accused the department of de-Indianization. I hope the Council will excuse me if I do not take up the challenge he has thrown out on this point, for the simple reason that, so far as this department is concerned, we get the best men, whether they belong to the Imperial or Provincial Services, for the purpose for which we employ them. The other is a larger question, a question which is more for the Political and Appointment Departments to reply to than myself; nor can it come forward in a general discussion under the motion before us. As regards the settlement operations, it is my duty as Member in charge of the Revenue Department, to point out why the figure cannot be reduced any further. I think a special reference has been made as regards one officer whom we had in the Settlement Department who was a Provincial Service Officer; he is Khan Bahadur Abdul Momin——

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: May I rise to a point of order? I want to explain that I did not make any reference to him as a personality, but as a Provincial Service Officer——.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: At the present moment he has gone back to the general line, and, I believe, is the district officer of Noakhali. The Appointment Department have taken him away from survey and settlement operations.

As regards the cost, this represents the difference between the budget for 1923-24 and the revised estimate for 1922-23 for major settlement operations. Apparently the mover considers that because we have managed to make a large reduction this year, we can make a similar reduction next year. Unfortunately, this is not the case and we cannot do this again. Now the reason why we want all this money next year is as follows:—

As the Council are aware, the settlement programme has after much discussion in the Council been brought down to its minimum on a two-party basis, and I would like to emphasize the fact that the Retrenchment Committee have not gone into the matter of reduction of settlement operations naturally because they understood that this was a matter which must be carried on. Any suggestion, therefore, to this effect need not be seriously considered. The Government have already considered the matter and have brought the parties down to a two-party basis. Now, the first reason for the amount required is that we have got to finish off the settlements of Bankura, Nadia, and Jessore which were begun on the more extended programme on a four-party basis. Money is required in these settlements for case-work and recovery mainly, and it would be the height of folly to retrench the programme in these districts, because it would severely affect recoveries and also our stamp

revenue in case-work and increase our overhead charges the longer the settlements remain going on. The main reason, however, why such a large provision is required next year is that we have two settlements belonging to the two-party programme, namely, Khulna and Pabna-Bogra, going on which will next year be at their most expensive stages when the cost of a settlement reaches its maximum, as all the different stages are going on simultaneously in different parts of the districts. As a matter of fact, the estimate of job work in these two districts at least in very nearly half the total estimate.

The other settlement going on next year will be the joint operation of Birbhum and Murshidabad. A two-party settlement programme means two cadastral parties. Cadastral survey will be going on in the district of Khulna, but it will have finished a combined operation of Pabna-Bogra. Therefore cadastral survey and other operations have to be taken up in another operation. The Council are aware that operations were stopped in Birbhum and Murshidabad; in Birbhum after some *khanapuri* was done and in Murshidabad after the traverse of the first plot was completed owing to the reduction in the budget in 1921-22. The decision, therefore, to treat Birbhum-Murshidabad as one operation was mainly one of elementary economy. If the value of the traverse which had begun in those districts and of the initial settlement work started in Birbhum was not to be lost, it behoved us to get on with the work as soon as possible and thus save money, particularly as the headquarters buildings which belong to Government at Murshidabad could be utilized for both districts.

Now, there is one way of giving effect to the mover's resolution, and that is by giving up the two-party programme or reducing the above programme. I do not think the Council will agree to go behind the decision to have a two-party programme. Moreover, it would mean the loss of all the work put in in Birbhum and Murshidabad. The suggestion to reduce the above programme is just as uneconomical and it will be very upsetting. We have proved that this means extra expense in the end which falls on the landlords and tenants, and I wish to impress this point upon the attention of the Council because it is very often lost sight of. If the programme is upset, then there has to be a new traverse or it has to be revised. That costs money; we have had an unfortunate experience of it in Dacca and in Jessore. The experience will be still more unfortunate if there is any reduction now. The second consideration is that the longer a settlement lasts, the longer overhead charges for headquarters establishment, etc., are being incurred, and any business man knows how uneconomical that is.

In fine, and there is not the slightest doubt about it, the only economical way of running the Settlement Department is to run settlements up to schedule time and in accordance with the programme. With the

proposed reduction and a corresponding reduction of programme, we shall spend more in the end and the landlords and tenants will have to bear the major portion of the brunt of the extra expenditure. Again, this budget does not represent the original settlement budget but a curtailed budget. It has already been cut down, as I have said, to a two-party pogramme. For these reasons I have to oppose the further reduction in it which has been proposed by Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta.

The motion standing in the name of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta was then put and lost.

The following motion of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq was not put as it was covered by the previous decision of the Council:—

"That the demand for Rs. 15,49,550 under the head '5C.—Survey and Settlement—Major Settlement Operations' be reduced by Rs. 6,550."

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Annada Charan Dutta was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 49,877 for lump provision for minor operations and advances recoverable under the head '5C.—Survey and Settlement' be reduced by Rs. 38,000."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 30,000 for experimental revision of temporarily-settled estates in Chittagong under the head "5C.—Survey and Settlement—Minor Settlement Operations" be refused.

It appears from the Green Book that Rs. 30,000 has been aollotted in this budget for an experimental revision of the temporarily-settled estates in Chittagong. In the White Book it is a little difficult to find out where this money has been mentioned; but taking the one as the guide to the other, and knowing the facts as I come from Chittagong myself, I have put down my motion. I hope, Sir, that my hon'ble friends of the Council will bear with me a little if I try to explain to them what it really imports.

Chittagong is, what I have once described it to be, the tail of Bengal, which comes in for all the lashing, but never for any nourishment. There is a peculiarity in its land system. Unfortunately for us, when the Permanent Settlement was made, the letter authorizing the same came too late to Chittagong and it was withdrawn too early from Chittagong. As a result, though even up to the borders of Noakhali and Comilla we have got big estates within one ambit which are permanently settled, when you cross the river Feui you find small plots of land not even the size of half of this room recorded as forming a part of a small permanently-settled estate, while another small plot which is close to it is recorded as *nayabad*, that is, a temporarily-settled estate. This is the unfortunate result

of the letter authorising the Permanent Settlement having reached Chittagong late and having been withdrawn early. Owing to that we have got our khas mahals, and owing to that, again the khas mahal has got a special staff for resurveying lands and also for making resettlement. This is being done every year, so there is hardly any necessity for the resurvey of temporarily-settled estates; and why it should be done at all at this juncture, I fail to understand. I shall explain my position. In Chittagong we had what is called the Sedon's survey or twelve hundred *maghi* survey. It was a cadastral survey, and plots were measured rectangular and incidents duly recorded. In 1876 we had Mr. Fesson's survey of small plots, which was considered as *gharbandobust*. But in some places it was found that several plots were so small in area that it would be useless to go to the expense of realising any rents from them and no settlement really took place. Even after this, Sir, we were not allowed to live in peace. The first cadastral survey under Chapter X of the Bengal Tenancy Act commenced in Chittagong, and my friends in other parts of Bengal have had sufficient taste of the same later on and know what that means. From 1890 down to 1900 we had all these survey operations. Every inch of the land was settled or resettled. Even up to now we have not been able to recover from the confusion that was created by that cadastral survey. After the survey mentioned by me in the year 1876, a survey has come to be looked upon as a curse and a scourge upon the people. As fate would have it, curiosly enough, in Chittagong the survey operations have always been accompanied with cyclone and storm-waves. It took place in 1836, in 1876, and again in 1897, and one is due now, and that is perhaps the reason why the Government are going to have another survey operation. It is a curious coincidence, but the facts remain there. It is not only for the increment of revenue that the people object to survey, although they are heavily taxed; but they object more to the paraphernalia connected with the survey and settlement operations, which are really more oppressive. Resettlement after 20 years of the cadastral survey which was completed in 1900 seems to be really very curious. Either you must confess that all that survey and settlement under Chapter X of the Bengal Tenancy Act, which was an exhaustive one, was full of mistakes, or you must say that there is hardly any necessity of a resettlement now after 20 years. The rent was increased in these so-called temporarily-settled estates in such a way during the last survey that the Government really took everything, leaving only some 15 to 20 per cent. of the actual realizations to the talukdars, who are supposed to be the proprietors of these estates. After only 20 years is it likely that there would be any increase in the revenue and that it will counterbalance the difficulties and the inconveniences and expenditure of a survey? After all, it is not merely the tenure-holder but ultimately it is the tenant who occupies the land who will have to pay for the survey. In some localities during the last survey operations these rents were so much increased that talukdars and jotdars and occupiers

were compelled to abandon their lands and the khas mahals have begun to administer them. Do you want to make that experiment again? There is no reason for it.

There is another thing which I ought to mention, and that is this. The pecularity of the Chittagong land system is, as I have already pointed out, that small plots of lands of different estates are interspersed. Any settlement operations, therefore, would affect the whole of the district. It is the thin end of the wedge; will the operations be completed with this money, or is it not likely, almost a certainty, that it will lead Government to the commitment of a bigger scheme, which in the end will entail a huge expenditure, probably of several lakhs? No doubt Government will come forward with the reply that the money will be recouped. But recoupment from whom? Formerly 75 per cent. of survey expenditure used to be recouped from the people. A proposal has been made by the Retrenchment Committee that 95 per cent. should not be recouped. And I am almost sure that this 95 per cent. will come from the poor people of Chittagong. Sir, the people of Chittagong are generally poorer than poor people of the other parts of Bengal. Therefore it is meet and proper that these resettlement operations should not be taken up.

By reading carefully the proposal I have come across the word "experimental," which itself implies that the authorities themselves are not perhaps quite sanguine about the success of their own proposal. They must experiment upon it. They did experiment upon the cadastral survey in Chittagong and afterwards it was extended throughout the whole of Bengal. Here also another experiment is going to be made in Chittagong, and my friends from the other parts of Bengal may take note of the fact that this experiment may be the thin end of the wedge for them too. It is not only for Chittagong but it may also be extended throughout Bengal. At any rate I submit that this is not the time that this resettlement should take place. Let us at least wait for a few years more, and when things have improved a bit, then these operations may be taken in hand. All these facts I place before the Council, and I implore the members of this House to vote against the item, thus saving the poor people of Chittagong from the curse that will otherwise fall upon them. No additional revenue is expected from the devitalized people, and the huge costs will be a dead loss in the end.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 50,377 under the head "5C.—Survey and Settlement—Minor Settlement Operations" be reduced by Rs. 6,377.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: When Babu Annada Charan Dutta moved his amendment, I was under the impression that perhaps he had some case for it, but when I heard his arguments, I found that the cat was out of the bag. My own impression is that these operations would affect the middlemen, and though an appeal is being made to the Council on behalf

of the poor raiyats, my idea is that the appeal is being made on behalf of the tenure-holders and the middlemen. Sir, I have no experience of these *nayabad* estates or taluks, but I have some experience of temporarily-settled estates in the 24-Parganas—I mean in the Sundarbans. We all know that since the period of settlement expires under section 191 or 192 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, Government has got to make a fresh settlement, thereby enhancing the rent of these middlemen, and then there would be a corresponding increase in the rent of the occupancy raiyats. If these operations are not taken in hand, what would be the result? The middlemen are quite at liberty under the provisions of the Tenancy Act to enhance the rent of the raiyats, but their rent is not enhanced by the Government. It is a loss to Government, though the money actually goes from the pockets of the tenants. My idea is this: That if these operations are carried on, it would be least injurious to the raiyats for the simple reason that they cannot bear the heavy cost of litigation for rent-suits. I remember, Sir, that there was a rent-suit between the Port Canning Improvement Company and their tenants in the 24-Parganas. This suit was tried at Baruipur and the company brought Sir Rash Behari Ghose to fight against the poor pleaders of those raiyats. It is the long purse of the tenure-holders which enables them to squeeze out as much money as possible from the raiyats. An appeal is being made in the name of the raiyats, but the real object is to put an end to all these things in the interest of the tenure-holders. Sir, I really stand for the raiyats, and I do not think that these operations should be continued, so that the rent of these poor men may be fixed in an expeditious way. Therefore I oppose the motion.

Mr. M. C. McALPIN: I rise to oppose this motion on behalf of Government and I must thank Mr. Nasim Ali for his support. It only remains for me to explain what this actual experiment is. In the first place, I think the mover must have been a little inaccurate in his dates, because, so far as my information goes, the last settlement of Chittagong took effect from the year 1894-95 and this settlement of 30 years expires in the year 1924-25. The present settlement will have been carried on for just about 30 years and not 20 years as I think the mover suggested.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: May I rise to a point of personal explanation, Sir? I said it commenced in 1890—operations were completed some time in 1900; and, therefore, the new operations would be just after 20 years.

Mr. M. C. McALPIN: The settlement started in the year 1895 and it expires in the year 1925. It is a 30 years' settlement and we are entitled to a new settlement of land revenue now, but, it will take several years before we can introduce a new settlement, because the new settlement of land revenue will have to be preceded by the preparation of a record-of-rights or something of that description. Anyhow,

we do not quite know how this new settlement of revenue is going to be effected. In Chittagong, as the mover has pointed out, the temporarily-settled estates as well as the permanently-settled ones are inextricably mixed up. And we have got to have an experiment to find out whether we can do the temporarily-settled area without the permanently-settled area and also to find out whether, for other reasons, we should not take up the permanently-settled area also. The other reason for the experiment is that if the old map and the old records are sufficiently good, it will only be necessary to revise the old map and the process of settlement will be so much cheaper. That is the second reason for the experiment. We want to find out whether we have got to do the whole *de novo* or whether we need merely revise the old map.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: May I rise to a point of personal explanation, Sir? Is it really the case that the old survey will be revised?

Mr. PRESIDENT: That is not a personal explanation, Annada Babu.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I am afraid I do not quite understand the position.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think you are quite out of order. You must try to understand the position as Mr. McAlpin has put it. If you cannot understand it, so much the worse for you.

Mr. M. C. McALPIN: I was explaining to him that the experiment was to ascertain whether we should revise the old survey or whether we should have a new one. I hope the mover understands now. That is one of the reasons for the experiment. He suggests that although we have a small sum here, yet we are aiming at a very big scheme to be matured later. It may be perfectly true. I do not know whether the scheme would cost Rs. 6 lakhs or Rs. 20 lakhs. That is also what the experiment is for—to find out how much approximately it is going to cost us. Meanwhile, Sir, we have got to have this small amount of Rs. 30,000 provided in the budget for the purpose. I therefore oppose the motion.

The motion standing in the name of Babu Annada Charan Dutta was then put and division taken, with the following result:—

AYES.

Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Banerjea, Dr. Pramathanath.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra
Chaudhuri, Babu Kisheri Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Dutt, Mr. Ajoy Chunder.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Chose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Maitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.

NOES.

Ahmed, Maulvi Rah Uddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakubuddin.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Birley, Mr. L.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Crawford, Mr. T. C.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.
De, Mr. K. C.
De, Rai Bahadur Faninderalal.
Deare, Major-General S. H.
Dey, Mr. C. C.
Donald, the Hon'ble Mr. J.
Donovan, Mr. J. T.
Emerson, Mr. T.
Faroqui, Mr. K. C. M.
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
Ghose, Mr. D. C.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
Huntingford, Mr. C. T.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the.
Maitih, Babu Surendra Nath.
Marr, Mr. A.
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukerjee, Mr. S. C.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhone.
Philip, Mr. J. Y.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Robertson, Mr. F. W.
Rose, Mr. G. F.
Ray, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Bijoyprasad Singh.
Roy, Mr. G. H.
Ray, Mr. J. N.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Skinner, Mr. H. E.
Stephenson, the Hon'ble Mr. H. L.
Stuart-Williams, Mr. S. C.
Travers, Mr. W. L.
Villiers, Mr. F. F.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, order! Mr. Krishna Chandra Ray Chaudhuri and Mr. Carey went through the "Noes" lobby after the doors had been ordered to be locked. Their votes have therefore been disallowed.

The Ayes being 20 and the Noes 49, the motion was lost.

Shah Syed Emdadul Haq's motion was then put and lost.

Here the Council adjourned for 15 minutes.

After the adjournment.

The following motions were, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand for Rs. 12,765 for charges of professional survey parties (major survey operations) debitable to minor operations under the head '5C.—Survey and Settlement' be reduced by Rs. 2,765."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA and Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand of Rs. 28,000 under the head '5C.—Survey and Settlement—Major Survey Operations—Skilled Labour' be reduced by Rs. 8,000."

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 18,95,000 under the head '5.—Land Revenue—Survey and Settle-

ment' be reduced by Rs. 10,000 from the provision for temporary establishment for major survey operations."

The following motions standing in the name of Babu Annada Charan Dutta were, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 47,500 under the head '5C.—Survey and Settlement—Major Survey Operations—Temporary Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 7,500."

"That the demand of Rs. 15,400 under the head '5C.—Survey and Settlement—Major Survey Operations—Travelling Expenses' be reduced by Rs. 5,400."

"That the demand of Rs. 2,370 under the head '5C.—Survey and Settlement—Major Survey Operations—House-rent and other allowances' be reduced by Rs. 500."

The following motion was, by the leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 18,95,000 under the head '5.—Land Revenue—Survey and Settlement' be reduced by Rs. 2,500 from the provision for travelling allowance in connection with major survey operations."

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: On behalf of Babu Satish Chandra Mukharji I beg to move the following:—

"That the demand of Rs. 2,500 under the head '5.—Land Revenue—Survey and Settlement—Major Survey Operations—Purchase and repair of instruments' be reduced to Rs. 2,000."

"That the demand of Rs. 13,000 under the head '5.—Land Revenue—Survey and Settlement—Major Survey Operations—Purchase of tents, stores, etc.,' be reduced by Rs. 3,000."

The motions were put and agreed to.

The following motion was not put as it was covered by the previous decision of the Council:—

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA and Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 13,000 under the head '5C.—Survey and Settlement—Major Survey Operations—Purchase, carriage, and repair of tents, stores, etc.,' be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand for Rs. 18,95,000 under the head "5C.—Survey and Settlement—Major Settlement Operations" be reduced by Rs. 20,000.

It is not with any idea of postponing the traverse survey of the district of the 24-Parganas to the Greek Kalends that I am going to make such a

proposal. I consider the extension of the survey operations to the district of the 24-Parganas will now be an inopportune step; because, in the first place, I think that if you at all provide for the cadastral survey of the 24-Parganas in the coming year and if in the year after next or soon after you cannot provide for settlement operations in that district, the boundary marks will run the risk of being dilapidated and at the same time much of the expenditure on the traverse survey will be wasted and fruitless and moreover, it will take long to recover the charges, which also means much loss to the public exchequer. For I understand that the hands of the Settlement Department are already full with the settlement operations in the districts of Khulna, Bogra, and Pabna. Well, Sir, under the present circumstances, the Government just to observe economy is not prepared to carry on settlement operations on a larger scale than on a two-party basis. If that be the case, then I am afraid Government will not be able to undertake the settlement operations in the 24-Parganas in 1924-25 or even in 1925-26, because, by that time the settlement operations in the districts of Pabna, Bogra, and Khulna and possibly in Murshidabad and Birbhum also will not be finished. I, therefore, propose that the traverse survey of the district of the 24-Parganas during the coming year should be postponed and that if at all some work is to be found for the other survey party, they may be appointed just to hasten the completion of the survey operations in Murshidabad and Birbhum, for I understand there is only one survey party operating in those two districts. If, therefore, the other survey party is allowed to work there, the survey work in the districts of Birbhum and Murshidabad will be finished sooner. And, Sir, Survey and Settlement operations not on an extensive but on an intensive scale should find favour with the Government at the present moment. I, therefore, propose that for the present the traverse survey of the district of the 24-Parganas be postponed, and the demand for it be refused.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The terms of the motion are as follows:—

That the demand for Rs. 18,95,000 under the head "5C.— Survey and Settlement—Major Survey Operations" be reduced by Rs. 20,000.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: In view of item No. 65 where a reduction of Rs. 25,000 has been made, I think the motion under discussion is not in order.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I must rule it out of order.

The motion was ruled out of order.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 1,65,532 under the head "5C.—Survey and Settlement—Major Survey Operations" be reduced by Rs. 7,000.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The following motions were, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 1,17,650 for pay of officers under '5C.—Survey ad Settlement' be reduced by Rs. 10,000."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 5,86,777 for the pay of establishment under '5C.—Survey and Settlement' be reduced by Rs. 6,000."

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: "That the demand of Rs. 18,95,000 under the head '5.—Land Revenue—Survey and Settlement' be reduced by Rs. 1,42,000."

Babu NALINI NATH ROY: "That the demand for Rs. 18,95,000 under the head '5C.—Survey and Settlement' be reduced to Rs. 17,63,000."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 18,95,000 under '5C.—Survey and Settlement' be reduced by Rs. 95,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 18,95,000 under the head "5C.—Survey and Settlement" be reduced by Rs. 70,000.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: We oppose it, because we have already reduced the demand.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following motions were not put as they were covered by the previous decision of the Council.

Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: "That the demand for Rs. 18,95,000 under the head '5C.—Survey and Settlement be reduced by Rs. 50,000."

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: "That the demand for Rs. 18,95,000 under the head '5C.—Survey and Settlement' be reduced by Rs. 40,000."

The following motions were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 7,800 under the head '5D.—Land Revenue—Land Records—Pay of Officers' be refused."

Babu SARAT CHANDRA MUKHOPADHAYA: "That the demand of Rs. 23,712 under the head 'Land Revenue—Land Records—Clerks' be reduced by Rs. 4,207."

Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: I move that the demand for Rs. 400 under hill allowance under the head "Land Records—Superintendence" be refused.

The country in no uncertain voice is demanding year after year curtailment of expenditure in connection with hill exodus. But I regret the Government is turning a deaf ear to this reasonable suggestion. I do not see any earthly reason why the Land Records officers or clerks should go to the hills, while the Hon'ble Judges of the High Courts or the merchant-princes possessing millions may work well in the heat of Calcutta. With these few words I strongly object to hill allowance being sanctioned for the Land Records officers.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: The Director of Land Records, if he goes up to Darjeeling, goes up at his own expense. If he is not allowed to go up to Darjeeling and Government goes up, he will have to be called up there to consult with Government who will have to pay his travelling expenses instead of this item. Therefore I oppose this motion for the reduction of Rs. 400.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following motion was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 1,520 under '5D Land Revenue—Land Records—Superintendence—House rent and other allowances' be reduced to Rs. 520."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I withdraw the next motion:—

"That the demand of Rs. 3,000 under the head '5D.—Land Revenue—Land Records—Superintendence' for steam launch contingencies be refused."

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motions were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 55,000 under the head '5—Land Revenue—Land Records' be reduced by Rs. 2,000 from the provision for steam launch contingencies under the detailed head superintendence."

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 37,900 under the head '5.—Land Revenue—Land Records—District charges' be reduced by the amount which represents the pay of the additional clerk under the detailed head district charges."

The following motion standing in the name of Maulvi Ekramul Huq was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 55,400 under the head '5.—Land Revenue—Land Records' be reduced by Rs. 8,000.,,

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand of Rs. 55,400 under the head " 5D.--Land Revenue—Land Records " be reduced by Rs. 3,000.

Mr. M. C. McALPIN: I rise to oppose this motion on behalf of Government. I do not think I need trouble the House with details of this matter. All that I need say is that the whole of the increase is due to the increase of the pay of the clerks. I therefore oppose the motion.

The motion was then put and lost.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: After hearing the Hon'ble Mr. Donald I think I should not press my amendment, but I take this opportunity of thanking the Government for taking prompt action in trying to make a reduction in this direction. There is room for improvement and I am glad to hear that more will be done later on. We think that at least there should be a reduction of 25 per cent., and I hope eventually that will be carried out. With these observations I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn :—

" That the demand of Rs. 1,72,315 for travelling allowances under the head ' 5.—Land Revenue ' be reduced by Rs. 43,079."

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand for Rs. 29,23,000 under the head " 5.—Land Revenue (Reserved) " be reduced by Rs. 2,15,000.

I intended to make a long speech urging this reduction and severely condemning the activities of the department over which the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan presides; but the attitude of the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur is so conciliatory that I no longer find it necessary to throw any darts at him at all. I shall, therefore, content myself with a few brief observations. In the first place, I would urge wasteful expenditure be cut down wherever it may be found. Secondly, as regards the management of Government estates, a greater amount of mercy should be shown to the poorer tenants than is at present done. In the third place, in the matter of settlements, I would request the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur so to regulate the operations as to cause the least hardship to those who are affected by them, especially the poorer section of the community.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: We have already made cuts of Rs. 1,00,500 from the total demand. So, that amount must be deducted from the hon'ble member's proposed cut of Rs. 2,15,000.

Sir, the cut of Rs. 1,00,500 which I have mentioned has not been completed yet, becuase there is another cut regarding which there is no motion for reduction, namely, Rs. 12,750, and that will make up Rs. 1,00,500.

I think my answer to Dr. Banerjea is that Government have already decided to cut Rs. 1,00,500, out of which the amount under Survey and Settlement which has come in for so much criticism is Rs. 98,500. So the Government's critics must admit that Government are doing their best in that direction. Probably there will be more savings under the head when Mr. Donald's pruning knife is applied to the provision for travelling allowance, etc. Therefore, I can assure Dr. Banerjea that we are doing our best, and that the chances are that Rs. 1,00,500 will be increased when other expenses are curtailed. Therefore, under these circumstances, I hope he will withdraw his motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The question is that the demand under the head "5.—Land Revenue" as settled in the Council, be granted.

The motion was put and agreed to.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): I move that a sum of Rs. 13,76,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "6.—Excise."

It will be observed that the corresponding demand in the current year's budget was Rs. 14,80,000 and the revised estimate for the current year is Rs. 13,74,000. The demand is, therefore, only Rs. 2,000 in excess of the revised estimate for the current year, and it is more than a lakh less than the demand made a year ago. What has happened is that in the course of the year we have made retrenchments wherever we could conveniently do so, and we propose to make even more retrenchments in the coming year. Why, then, it may be asked, does the demand exceed the revised estimate of the current year? The only reason is that the increments due to the staff under the time-scale will accrue and these must be paid.

A few days ago I spoke on the general policy of the department, and I showed that we were, as a result of better administration, able to budget for receipts of Rs. 2,01,50,000 against an estimate for the current year of Rs. 1,90,50,000 and a revised estimate of Rs. 1,96,50,000. Part of the increased revenue estimate now before the Council is due to the extension of the fixed-fee system to the *tari* shops in Calcutta, part to the better working of that system throughout the province, and part to subsidence of the non-co-operation activity against the department. Part is due also to generally better administration resulting in more and more complete control of the traffic in liquors and drugs, a fact which the advocates of temperance must welcome.

I now turn to the detailed heads. There comes first "6A.—Superintendence" and here we show an increase of Rs. 4,000 over the revised

figure for the current year. It will be found, however, that in every item, except the item for the pay of the establishment, we have made large reductions compared to the original estimate for the current year, and in some instances compared to the revised figures for the current year.

Thus in travelling allowances, contract contingencies, rewards, and other contingencies we have reductions. But there have been no reductions in the pay of inspectors and ministerial establishment, and in the result the estimate is Rs. 25,000 less than the current year's original estimate and Rs. 4,000 more than the revised figures for the current year.

Under the head "6B.—Presidency Establishment" the Council will notice an increase when we come to ministerial establishment and a general decrease in regard to other items. In the result, the budget shows an increase under this head of Rs. 13,000 compared to the revised figures for the current year, but the necessity of providing for the increased pay of subordinate and ministerial establishments is the only reason why it is necessary to show this increase. Compared to the current year's original budget estimate, however, we show a decrease of Rs. 22,000.

Under the head "6C.—District Executive Establishment" the budget estimate is Rs. 8,82,000, against a revised estimate of Rs 9,07,000 and an original estimate of Rs. 9,01,000. It will be found again in this head that when we are dealing with staff we have increases partly due to an increase of staff, but mainly due to the increments that accrue In steam launch and boat staff and in servants there is, however, a decrease in the number of the staff, and in allowances of all kinds there is a very great decrease.

Under the head "6D.—Distilleries" the estimate is Rs. 2,68,000 against the revised figures of Rs. 2,56,000 and original estimates of Rs 3,06,000. Here, again, where we deal with staff we have increases; where we deal with allowances, contingencies, rewards, stores, etc., we have decreases.

I have in my speech on the general discussion of the budget emphasized the great success attending the administration of this department. The Hon'ble the Finance Member in his speech paid a tribute to its improved administration. He possibly was thinking of the Revenue results. The Retrenchment Committee gave figures (not, indeed, accurate figures) showing the increase in expenditure in this department in the last 10 years. They omitted to give, it would not have served their purpose, perhaps, to give the figures of revenue. For every rupee increase in the expenditure on this department in the last 10 years there has been a return of eight rupees in revenue, and I feel almost certain that, without the scrupulous care which we have devoted to the question in effecting retrenchments, we may say that every rupee of retrenchment will be accompanied by a corresponding loss of several rupees in revenue. Let those who think only of retrenchment and of the rupees, annas, and pies

of the department envisage this and reconsider their attitude. To me it is not a question only of revenue or expenditure in this department. I hold that every rupee of expenditure has brought us nearer to our goal.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I propose to take motions Nos. 108 to 128 together.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand for Rs. 51,000 under "6A.—Excise—Administrative Establishments—Other Gazetted Officers" be reduced by Rs 27,000, being the pay of two Deputy Commissioners.

First of all, I think that we ought to thank the Hon'ble the Minister for the cuts in his department which he has promised to do, but in spite of that I think that there are some further recommendations of retrenchment, which have been before his department for three or four months, and yet I am astonished that he has not been able to come to any decision about them. Though we have been asked to-day to leave the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee in the hands of the Government, I think that there are some recommendations of that Committee which are so simple that the Government ought to have been able to make up their mind during the last three months. One of these points is, the motion that I suggest for the acceptance of this House to-day. The Retrenchment Committee has said this with regard to Deputy Commissioners: "There are three Deputy Commissioners, but the evidence received by us is strongly against the employment of more than one, whose duties will be largely concerned with distilleries. We recommend that two of these posts be abolished." In view of this strong recommendation, based on good evidence, I fail to see why the Government have not been able to make up their mind about these posts. Therefore, I beg to press my motion for the acceptance of this House.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: May I at the outset ask your permission to make a little modification in the amendment which is necessary after the announcement of the Hon'ble the Minister?

Mr. PRESIDENT: What is it?

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I want to reduce one Deputy Excise Commissioner and another Superintendent.

Mr. PRESIDENT: We cannot have it in that form. You cannot move vague things like the pay of a Deputy Commissioner, etc. You have got to mention a definite sum, either one rupee or ten thousand rupees.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: Looking at the fate of many amendments I might not like to press it. I shall, however, move my

amendment. I move that the demand of Rs. 51,000 under '6A.—Superintendence—Administrative Establishment—Other Gazetted Officers' be reduced by Rs. 17,400.

We find that there are three Deputy Commissioners in the budget, the last one drawing a pay of Rs. 1,100. He is, I understand, in charge of the distillery works known as Russa Distillery Works. We find also one Excise Superintendent attached to the office and two more under the head of Superintendents and Prosecutors. We have got at least 6 Superintendents in charge of—(1) licensing; (2) preventive work, (3) distilleries and warehouses, and (4) excise office. Now, with the improvement of the cadre of Superintendents as also Inspectors, among whom we have got some distinguished science graduates, it would not be at all impossible to get a good worthy man to be placed in charge of distilleries and warehouses where some sort of scientific training is required. That being so, there is hardly any necessity for keeping any Deputy Commissioner for that particular work. The work remaining may be so allotted to the other remaining Deputy Commissioner that the work will not suffer in the end. I understand that owing to the particular allocation of different duties to two Deputy Commissioners who are in office, both of them have got to visit different districts on different occasions, entailing double travelling charges. This work also may be so regulated——

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: There are no Deputy Commissioners in the office.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I find under head "6" five gazetted officers, two drawing a pay of Rs 1,150 a month, one Rs. 1,100, and two other gazetted officers each on Rs. 550. I take it that the first two gentlemen are Deputy Commissioners. I do not think that my friend, Mr. Donovan, can deny that. If that is so, it does not matter whether they are attached to the office or whether they are at the head of any office or at the head of the province, but the fact remains that there are three Deputy Commissioners and one Excise Commissioner. Before my friend interrupted me, I said that these officers had to tour over the whole of Bengal, and that their duties might be so divided that one gentleman would be in charge of one half and the other in charge of the other half of the Province. That would economize the charges of the department. Taking all these facts together, I think that the efficiency of the department will not be impaired if the post of one Deputy Commissioner is abolished by placing a Superintendent in charge of Distillery Works, and the other two Deputy Commissioners in charge of general preventive cases and warehouses, etc. I, therefore, press that the money asked for for one of them, the most junior Deputy Commissioner, should be disallowed. I have already explained my position in regard to Superintendents and the Hon'ble the Minister has promised some reduction in this direction.

The following motion standing in the names of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur and Mr. S. M. Bose was, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn :—

"That the demand of Rs. 18,000 under the head '6A.—Superintendence—Administrative Establishment—Travelling Allowances' be reduced to Rs. 10,000."

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Fanindralal De Bahadur was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn :—

"That the demand of Rs. 18,000 for the Travelling Allowance under the head '6A.—Administrative Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn :

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: "That the demand of Rs. 18,000 for Travelling Allowance under the head '6A.—Superintendence' be reduced by Rs. 4,50."

Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: I move that the demand for Rs. 18,000 for travelling allowance under the head "6A.—Superintendence" be reduced by Rs. 2,000.

My object in moving this is to draw the special attention of the Government to this question of travelling allowance. The whole country is under the impression that travelling allowance bills are growing bigger and bigger every year. The Government should issue passes over the railways instead of paying in cash. I believe this will save a good amount of the public money. Unprecedented and, in many cases unreasonable increments have been sanctioned to all departments, and the officers should be satisfied with their pay instead of turning their greedy eyes to travelling allowance bills. Let them undergo a bit of hardship in going from one place to another. Let them see and feel the actual condition of the people instead of journeying in second classes and making bills for first classes. With these few words I move a reduction of Rs. 2,000.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 200 for Hill Allowances under the head '6A.—Administrative Establishment' be refused.

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: This is exactly similar to the motion dealt with and accepted by the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I beg to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council withdrawn:—

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: "That the demand of Rs. 12,000 for Contract Contingencies under the head '6A.—Superintendence' be reduced by Rs. 3,000."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I move—

(*i*) that the demand of Rs. 12,000 under head '6A.—Superintendence—Administrative Establishment—Contract Contingencies' be reduced by Rs. 2,000.

(*ii*) that the demand of Rs. 10,000 under the head '6A.—Superintendence—Administrative Establishment—Rewards' be reduced by Rs. 5,000.

In pressing these two motions I must thankfully acknowledge the announcement that the item of reward and contract contingencies would be cut down. In pressing amendment No 119 I only beg to mention that we have got the promise that the matter will be looked into.

As to (*ii*) I am a little particular. Looking into the figures it has been found that the officers who are drawing a certain amount of pay throughout the year——

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: It will save time if I say that we accept the last motion.

Part (*i*) of the motion was then put and lost.

Part (*ii*) of the motion was then put and agreed to.

The following motions were not put as they were covered by the previous decision of the Council:—

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 10,000 for rewards under the head '6A.—Superintendence—Administrative Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 4,000."

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: "That the demand of Rs. 10,000 for rewards under the head '6A.—Superintendence' be reduced by Rs. 2,500."

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 19,745 under the head '6A.—Superintendence—Administrative Establishment—other contract charges' be reduced by Rs. 9,745."

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: My amendment is based on the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, but in deference to the wish expressed by His Excellency, I think I should withdraw

it. I will only move those amendments on which there is no recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 1,69,000 under the head '6A.—Superintendence' be reduced by Rs. 72,000."

The following motion standing in the name of Maulvi Ekramul Huq was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:

"That the demand of Rs. 1,69,000 under the head '6. Excise Superintendence' be reduced by Rs. 8,000."

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 1,69,000 under the head '6A.—Superintendence' be reduced by Rs. 4,000."

Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur: I do not know whether I am to withdraw my amendment or to press it. We are all sober men, though dealing with the excise budget, and here is our popular Minister—a great protagonist of Islam and a great follower of Islam who is against "drinking." So, I don't think that he will spend more money on "drinks" than may be absolutely necessary; but there are two or three items which struck me as very peculiar. In the Excise Department we give rewards for detective abilities. When we are giving increments to all these officers and giving house rents, travelling allowances, and everything of that sort, why should we give rewards? The system of giving rewards to public servants is condemnable. Now, of course, if these public servants were under-fed, and under-paid, and not properly looked after by Government, then, and then only, rewards would be welcome, and it would be a great inducement to them to discharge their duties; but I think that without rewards they are quite dutiful. So, I think that the item under the head "rewards" should be deleted and refused.

Mr. PRESIDENT: We have already reduced rewards by Rs. 5,000 and your proposal is only to reduce by Re. 1 only.

Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur: I am fighting for a principle. It strikes me that the officers are too many, but as Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray has said, that on the assurance of the Government Members and the statement made by His Excellency to-day in the Council, that the Government are going to give effect to the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee as far as practicable, I think that we should be satisfied with the budget estimates, as they had been presented to us. I think that the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister should be drawn, at any rate, to the particular recommendations of the

Retrenchment Committee on the amount put down under the heads "Deputy Commissioners"—"Excise Intelligence Bureau"—"Rewards" and "Contingencies." I leave the staff, the inspectors, and other officers alone. With these words I think I may have your to withdraw my motion.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 1,69,000 under the head '6.—Excise—Superintendence' be reduced by Re. 1 only."

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I beg to oppose these amendments which demand the immediate dismissal of officers now in Government service. Retrenchment is all very good. We can destroy but it is very difficult to build. I feel very strongly in this matter of the dismissal of officers, especially men of my class, but I shall not abuse my political opponents, because they prefer other ways as Mr. Villiers did yesterday, nor shall I call it an idiotic extravagance which is not good English, nor used by gentlemen.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please keep to the point. I understand you are speaking on some items of excise revenue; I see no relevancy of your speech yet.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: Yes, I oppose this amendment for the dismissal of my countrymen, men of my class. [A voice: "What is your class?"] The educated *Bhadralog* class—which is your class. A foul bird fouls its own nest.

Mr. PRESIDENT: If I have to call you to order again I shall ask you to resume your seat. You have twice said the only relevant sentence you have yet uttered.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I say that in these matters of dismissal, etc., the best judges are the Minister and the Secretary. If these officers do not want the dismissal of any, I think we, as responsible members of this Council, should support them.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: May I rise to a personal explanation. My motion does not mean the dismissal of any persons; they can be taken on to other services. I only want to abolish two posts.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: Rai Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta Bahadur said that the Hon'ble the Minister for Excise——

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: He has withdrawn his motion.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: All these motions involve a principle of retrenchment and Rai Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta Bahadur said that

the Minister of Excise being a follower of Islam ought to follow the policy of retrenchment. Unfortunately, this portfolio has been given to a Muhammadan and a Muhammadan has been placed in charge of this department, but I find from the policy which has been followed by the Hon'ble the Minister that he has acted like a Muhammadan. His policy is to advance the temperance movement, his policy is to minimise the consumption of liquor, but not at the cost of revenue. That goes to show that he tries to increase the price of these articles so that they may not be within the easy reach of many people. If that is the policy which I have been able to find out from his speeches on several occasions, I think he has acted like a Muhammadan and that should be the true policy so far as Excise is concerned. At the same time we must remember that this Government is not a Government for Muhammadans only. I do not think that my friends in this House would like that the whole of Excise revenue should go, so that fresh taxation will have to be imposed upon the people. If the revenue fails we have got to find out means and the means would certainly be fresh taxation. Therefore, the true policy of a Muhammadan being placed in charge of Excise must be to do away with this evil gradually, but not to do away with it all on a sudden and that, I understand, is the policy of the Hon'ble the Minister. As the Hon'ble the Minister has said in his speech he is making an honest effort to reduce the expenditure as much as possible, I think I should oppose this motion.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: The proposals involved in the motions for reductions of grants, in so far as they involve recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee on which Government have not as yet come to a decision, are proposals which I must ask the House to reject, not on the ground that I think that they may not, to some extent at least, be given effect to, but solely on the ground that we have not yet come to a decision. I have told the House that to the last pie consistent with the safety of the revenue and my policy of co-operating with all reasonable temperance reform, to the last pie, I repeat, I shall insist on retrenchment. Let us not, however have retrenchment in haste and repentance at leisure. I have already told the House something about the Calcutta Collectorate. The question of the reduction of the number of Deputy Commissioners and the Superintendence staff is mixed up with the decisions to be taken on the Calcutta Collectorate. We have given earnest of our intentions in the reductions I have referred to in asking for this grant. I can only ask the House to pass the grant and trust us to carry out the further retrenchment which may be possible. Unconsidered cuts now will not serve any purpose.

There are the questions of travelling allowance and hill allowances. Undoubtedly, travelling allowances will come down when the Finance Department issue their new regulations, but the exact amount I cannot

now estimate. The Finance Department, as the House knows, has made a definite announcement. Let the House, however, not overlook the fact that the total reduction in travelling allowance, compared to the budget of the current year which the Retrenchment Committee criticized, is in the estimate before us Rs. 39,500.

In regard to contingencies it is known to the House that the demand in the budget of the current year was Rs. 1,74,045, and this is what the Retrenchment Committee criticized. We have in our estimate come down to Rs. 1,49,500 in anticipation of the committee and I have announced further reductions of over Rs. 11,000 in boat and launch contingencies. It is known to the House that a special Accounts Officer is examining the contingencies, and I promise to give effect to as much further retrenchment in contingencies as possible. How these reductions will be distributed, it is impossible to say without careful examination. I, therefore, ask the House to accept the cuts I have announced and leave me a free hand in distributing further possible cuts.

On the question of rewards, I am prepared to accept Babu Annada Charan Dutta's motion *in toto*. The estimate shows reductions of Rs. 25,000. I have announced another Rs. 15,000.

The grant for rewards looms large. I want to say a few words about it. The amount of rewards is but a fraction of the value of seizures and fines. You must have informers in smuggling cases. You cannot stop smuggling otherwise. Our policy has been very effective. In 1914-15 and 1915-16 the contraband opium seized was 9 maunds a year. Since then, it has gone up to 46 maunds annually. The offer of good rewards has effected this. Now, Sir, in every single case in which we have given rewards, in every case, I believe, the persons who got the rewards could have got much bigger rewards for not helping us. Does the House want this to occur? In one recent case, in which the informer will get Rs. 4,000, he could have got Rs. 20,000 from the accused, who spent a far larger sum on his defence. Again, does the House realize the desperate tactics of smugglers, especially smugglers operating in Calcutta? They are frequently armed with revolvers and daggers. And yet our subordinate officers instead of taking a bribe of Rs. 500 or Rs. 1,000 from these armed desperadoes boldly attack and capture them and take pride in doing so. The records of the cases contain instance after instance of this. Within the last week there has come to my notice an example of heroism by a Sub-Inspector of Excise which in a war would have won for him glorious mention in despatches or other distinctions. We cannot refuse to reward these men. If we do so we shall soon be complaining of their corruption; and uncontrolled consumption of drugs will go up by leaps and bounds. I want the House seriously to consider this. I cannot obviously make public in any greater detail examples of the giving of rewards to informers and officers, but I am prepared to ask Mr. Donovan—and I am sure he will agree—to let members of this House interested in

the cases see confidentially the papers of some of the cases and satisfy themselves. These records are with Mr. Donovan, for every reward comes up separately to Government for sanction in Calcutta. I have, as I have said, agreed to reduce rewards by another Rs. 15,000, or Rs. 40,000 in all. Without making smuggling much more common and risking the corruption of our officers I cannot do more. I ask the House to accept the cuts I have made and leave the rest of this grant intact.

I trust in view of what I have said these motions will be withdrawn.

The motion standing in the name of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Banerjea, Dr. Pramathanath.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kisheri Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Mallik, Babu Surendra Nath.
Maitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Ray Chaudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Suhrawardy, Mr. Huseyn Shaheed.

NOES.

Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Birley, Mr. L.
Carey, Mr. W. L.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
De, Mr. K. C.
Deare, Major-General B. N.
Dey, Mr. C. C.
Donald, the Hon'ble Mr. J.
Donovan, Mr. J. T.
Emerson, Mr. T.
Farequi, Mr. K. G. M.
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
Ghose, Mr. D. C.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
Huntingford, Mr. G. T.
Karim, Maulvi Fazial.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Marr, Mr. A.
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukerjee, Mr. S. C.
Philip, Mr. J. Y.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal.
Robertson, Mr. F. W.
Roy, Mr. G. N.
Roy, Mr. J. N.
Stephenson, the Hon'ble Mr. H. L.
Villiers, Mr. F. E. E.

The Ayes being 12 and the Noes 35, the motion was lost.

The motions standing in the names of Babu Annada Charan Dutta and Babu Hem Chandra Nasker were then put and lost.

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till 10-30 A.M. on Saturday, the 17th March, 1923, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Saturday, the 17th March, 1923, at 10·30 A.M.

Present.

The Hon'ble the President in the Chair, the four Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council, the three Hon'ble Ministers, and 90 nominated and elected members.

The Budget for the year 1923-24.

Demands for Grants.

6—EXCISE.

The members being absent, the following motions were deemed to be withdrawn :—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 7,800 under the head '6B.—Presidency Establishment—for the pay of Deputy and Sub-Deputy Collectors' be refused."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 11,580 under the head '6B.—Presidency Establishment—Calcutta Collector's Office—Superintendence and Prosecutor' be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 3,756 under the head '6B.—Presidency Establishment—Calcutta Collector's Office—Servants' be reduced by Rs. 880."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 20,880 under the head '6B.—Presidency Establishment—Servants' be reduced by Rs. 1,080."

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 2,57,000 under the head '6.—Excise—Presidency Establishment' be reduced by the amount representing the pay of three additional servants."

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 30,000 for travelling allowance under the head '6B.—Calcutta Collector's Office' be reduced by Rs. 10,000."

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: "That the demand of Rs. 30,000 for travelling allowance under the head '6B.—Presidency Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 7,500."

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 2,57,000 under the head '6—Excise—Presidency Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 3,000 from the provision for travelling allowance."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 30,800 under the head '6B.—Presidency Establishment—Calcutta Collector's Office—Allowances, Honoraria, etc.' be reduced by Rs. 10,000."

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: "That the demand of Rs. 4,500 for contract contingencies under the minor head '6B.—Presidency Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 1,125."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 6,000 under the head '6B.—Presidency Establishment—Calcutta Collector's Office—Contingencies—Fees to Pleaders' be reduced by Rs. 4,000."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA and Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 50,000 under the head '6B.—Presidency Establishment—Calcutta Collector's Office—Contingencies—Rewards' be reduced by Rs. 25,000."

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 50,000 for rewards under the head '6B. Calcutta Collector's Office' be reduced by Rs. 20,000."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 50,000 for rewards under the head '6B.—Calcutta Collector's Office' be reduced by Rs. 14,000."

Professor S. C. MUKNERJI: "That the demand of Rs. 50,000 for rewards under the head '6B.—Presidency Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 12,500."

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: My motion for reduction is also based on the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee and, as promised yesterday, I propose to abide by the expressed wishes of His Excellency and beg leave to withdraw the motion. (Hear, hear!) In this connection, Sir, permit me to explain my position. I find it reported in to-day's papers that my esteemed colleague and friend, Babu Indu

Bhushan Dutta, has taken quite a different attitude and is for ignoring the request which His Excellency made yesterday. He stated—

I consider it foolish on our part not to insist on our rights to make an attempt to cut down he expenses which, from the Retrenchment Committee's Report, we consider extravagant and unnecessary.

I am very sorry to differ from him in the view he has thought fit to take. I know, Sir, that there are several items of expenditure on which some of us differ diametrically from the present Government. All the same, I submit that it would be a tactical blunder on our part to press our views and try to fight it to a finish at this stage. Circumstanced as we are, there is very little hope of our carrying our amendments in this Council. Our past experience bears ample testimony to that, and I prefer our action to be characterized as merely foolish by Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta than insane by the general public. (Hear, hear!) By our failure we simply strengthen the hands of the departments to resist hereafter any cuts which the Government as a whole acceding to the assurance given by His Excellency, might think fit and proper. I ask Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta and those who think with him to consider this aspect of the case. I ask him, would it not be more tactful and prudent on our part to respect the wishes of His Excellency and not press our amendments, so that the Government might be in a position to deal with the departments unfettered by any adverse vote of the House? (Hear, hear!) I should think, Sir, this is an occasion when we should rather follow the latter course and wait and see how the Government gives effect to its assurances. I admit, Sir, that I was very much impressed by the fair and open assurance given by His Excellency yesterday. He was so frank and sincere that I could not think it otherwise. I am, therefore, for once at least, prepared to acknowledge the Hon'ble the Finance Member as the leader of the Opposition (Hear, hear!) and I hope that he would not be afraid to bring down the departmental hornets' nests and I should therefore appeal to the House to let him have a free hand. If he is found wanting, the remedy lies in our own hands and we can throw him overboard whenever we like.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Question!

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I however do not mean that we should not discuss the various items in the Budget. Let us express our opinion on the various items of the expenditure, if we so desire, but pray do not press our demands to a vote, rather let them be withdrawn. There are however, several items which are either untouched by the Retrenchment Committee or in which we might go beyond the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, and in those cases we might press

our demands to a vote, if we so desire. I think, Sir, I have made my position clear and I now beg leave to withdraw the amendment which stands in my name.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn :—

"That the demand for Rs. 2,57,000 under the head '6B.—Presidency Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 37,000."

Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY: I move that the demand of Rs. 2,57,000 under the head "6B.—Calcutta Collector's Office" be reduced by Rs. 20,000.

I think I need not make a long speech. His Excellency the Governor in his speech delivered in this Council yesterday, assured us that proper attention would be paid to the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee and I am glad to note that under this head an attempt has been made to reduce expenditure on "Superintendents and Prosecutor." But I am sure savings can be effected under the heads "Travelling Allowance" and "Rewards." I refer especially to "Rewards." I am sure those who serve in this office are all paid servants of the Government, paid well for the services they render. Why then should a sum of half a lakh of rupees be sanctioned for rewards? The actuals for 1921-22 did not exceed Rs. 36,232.

Mr. PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. E. A. Cotton): With regard to the rewards, it was very fully stated yesterday by the Hon'ble the Nawab Sahib that he had made a reduction in this direction.

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (Mr. J. T. Donovan): I might point out that the Nawab Sahib made a reference to the Collector's Office in his speech. The proposed reduction might affect the efficiency of the department generally.

Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY: In that case I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The members being absent, the following motions were deemed to be withdrawn :—

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ and Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 2,57,000 under the head '6B.—Excise—Presidency Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 13,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 1,17,900 under the head '6C.—District Executive Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 4,900."

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 8,82,000 under the head '6C.—Excise—District Executive Establishment' be reduced by the amount representing the pay of one additional Superintendent."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 1,22,000 under the head '6C.—District Executive Establishment (transferred)—Pay of Superintendents and allowances of Inspectors, etc., be reduced by Rs. 12,200."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 52,572 under the head "6C.—District Executive Establishment (transferred)—Pay of Clerks' be reduced by Rs. 2,572."

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 8,82,000 under the head '6.—Excise—District Executive Establishment' be reduced by the amount representing the pay of three additional clerks."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 1,89,120 under the head '6C.—District Executive Establishment—(transferred)—Sadar Establishment' be reduced to the sum of Rs. 1,79,000 by disallowing the proposed increase of the numerical strength of officers and establishment"

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 1,89,120 for the Sadar establishment under the head '6C.' be reduced by Rs. 6,000."

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 8,82,000 under the head '6.—Excise—District Executive Establishment' be reduced by the amount representing the pay of three additional Inspectors."

Mr. BIJOYPROSAD SINCH ROY: I move that the demand for Rs. 3,26,760 for Inspector and Sub-Inspectors under the head "6C.—District Executive Establishment (Excise)" be reduced by Rs. 25,000.

In moving this amendment I beg to submit, Sir, that I have followed the principle of non-dismissal of Government officers on the ground of retrenchment. This demand is for 59 inspectors and 197 sub-inspectors. That means that there are about two inspectors in a district and 8 sub-inspectors; besides that there is a superintendent in each district. This figure for district establishment is going up gradually from Rs. 3,70,000 in 1913-14 to Rs. 9,00,000 this year. So I think that there should be a reduction. But I do not propose reduction by the dismissal of Government servants. There are more than seven inspectors whose term of office is over 30 years. These gentlemen can safely be pensioned off,

and if the Government care not to appoint men in their places, there wil be a saving of about Rs. 12,400, after deducting half of the amount as the pension charges. There are seven temporary appointments of inspectors on Rs. 150 a month and if these appointments be abolished, we shall have a saving of Rs. 12,600; so it will altogether amount to about Rs. 25,000. With these words I beg to submit my amendment to the Council.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I have an identical motion and I would support the previous motion.

The movers being absent, the following motions were deemed to be withdrawn:—

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 3,26,760 for the Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors under the head 'Inspection and Prevention' in '6C.' be reduced by Rs. 8,000."

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: "That the demand of Rs. 32,346 for steam-launch and boat establishment under the head '6C.—District Executive Establishment—Inspection and Prevention' be reduced by Rs. 8,087."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move—

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: May I point out that the Hon'ble the Minister has already agreed to a big reduction under this head?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Indu Babu, you have got much more than you have asked for.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Then I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 32,346 for steam-launch and boat establishment under the head '6C. Inspection and Prevention' be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 25,000 for temporary establishment under the head "6C.—Inspection and Prevention" be reduced by Rs. 10,000.

I beg to press this amendment and I hope you will kindly permit me to explain the reasons why I do so.

When I was stepping into this Council Chamber this morning, I found my breath taken away by my friend and colleague, Kumar Sub Shekhareswar Ray. I am astonished at the attitude taken up by the

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: Is he the leader of the Opposition?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, order!

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I do not know of his being a leader. It seems that because His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to request us to trust the Government to make as much retrenchment as is possible on the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, we are therefore to sit tight with folded hands and never press our views on the Government. I must confess that this is an extraordinary view to take. I hope the Kumar has not forgotten that what the Opposition thinks to-day, the Government thinks next year. It has been amply proved during the last two years, that what views we expressed two years ago are being expressed by some members of the Government to-day. Then, why should we not press our view now? It is a strange mentality to think that because we cannot carry a point we must, therefore, withdraw and retire. Then, we should have retired from the Council long ago. Surely, this was not the attitude of the Kumar Sahib two years ago. It strikes me as a strange mentality that one speech of His Excellency should have absolutely upset his balance of mind. Mr. Spry, who was the Financial Secretary of this Government, has signed this report. He thought that this retrenchment could be effected. Now that Mr. Spry has gone on leave and Mr. Marr has taken his place, and because there has been a change in the personality of the Secretaryship, there are signs that many important recommendations may be brushed aside. Is this changed attitude of the Government to be tolerated? If Mr. Spry had continued as Finance Secretary instead of going on leave I am sure he would have insisted on these recommendations being accepted. [A voice: Question!] Simply because he is not here, we cannot sit tight and not press them for the acceptance of the Government. Then the idea of——

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: I rise to a point of order. Is this domestic trouble relevant to this motion? (Laughter.)

Mr. PRESIDENT: I did not think fit to disturb Mr. Indu Bhushan Dutta. He is anxious to let off steam and I think it is much better that he should do so.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Leaving aside the question of domestic trouble which seems to perturb Mr. D. C. Ghose, I should like to come to a point of principle. (Hear, hear!) The Kumar Sahib has been pleased to regard the Hon'ble the Finance Member as a leader of the Opposition to-day. I should like to ask him whether he would be content to leave the discretion in the hands of a reserved department to decide about the recommendations regarding the transferred departments. It is well-known that in these transferred departments this

Council is the final authority. The transferred departments are responsible to this Council and not to anybody else. So if the Finance Department is not responsible to this Council at all. So if the Finance Department is not pleased to accept the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, what authority has this Council to insist on them to do this after this budget is passed? Is he content to leave the Finance Department in absolute power without any indication of this Council's opinion? The Kumar seems to think that if the Finance Department does not act according to this Council's ideas, this Council, in future, by some means or other, will be able to bring its views to be accepted by the Government. I do not see how. Does he mean the power of this Council to accede to the resolutions of this Council? How can this be done? Does he not remember that the path of this Council is strewn with unaccepted resolutions? Have the Government given effect to all our resolutions? If this last budget is passed unchallenged, we shall be absolutely at the mercy of the Government in this matter. Let the Kumar Sahib ponder over this.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 25,000 for temporary establishment under the head "61.—Inspection and Prevention" be reduced by Rs. 10,000.

The motion refers to temporary establishment. I am very suspicious about these items relating to temporary establishments, because it appears that certain amounts are always covered under this head which can very well be utilized for any purpose under the sweet will of the departmental head. Certainly, if a cut is made, much saving is possible under these heads. I therefore press that this reduction be made.

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur, was, in the absence of the mover, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 1,50,000 under '60.—District Executive Establishment—Allowances, Honoraria, etc.' be reduced to Rs. 1,00,000."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 1,55,000 under the head "60.—District Executive Establishment (transferred)—Allowances, Honoraria, etc.," be reduced by Rs. 50,000.

There is a demand of Rs. 1,55,000 under this head and it is for allowances, honoraria, and the like, that is to say, all vague expressions have been utilized for the purpose of asking for a very big amount of money and nobody knows really what underlies the surface—and we know that many things lie under the surface, and that they cannot bear the light of day. It appears sometimes that when funds are allotted for travelling allowances and the like, and they run short, the money required for the purpose is found from this head. So far as the Excise Department is concerned, it is an open secret that even the Civil Service Regulations do not govern their travelling allowances and the new Superintendents are allowed double first class fares under special rules of the depart- [illegible] There seems therefore, no reason why these items also should

not be reduced. In any case I urge upon the Hon'ble the Minister to be a little careful about these travelling allowances.

The following motion standing in the name of Professor S. C. Mukherji was, in the absence of the mover, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 1,50,000 for travelling allowance under the head '6C.—District Executive Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 37,500."

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: After the announcement made by the Hon'ble the Finance Member that he would criticize the whole question of the travelling allowances of the several departments, I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for travelling allowance under the head '6C.—District Executive Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 30,000."

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Upendra Lal Ray Bahadur was, in the absence of the mover, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 8,82,000 under the head '6.—Excise—District Executive Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 12,500 from the provision for travelling allowance."

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I move that the demand for Rs. 8,82,000 under the head "6C.—District Executive Establishment" be reduced by Rs. 3,13,000.

There is only one point to which I would like to refer in this connection. This item, which has got nothing to do with the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, covers the case of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors required for the Salt Department. This is an Imperial Department and all the revenue from this head goes to the Imperial Exchequer and we get only Rs. 2 lakhs a year from them for looking after their Salt Deparment in Bengal. (Hear, hear!) My point is this: Our Government, I mean the Bengal Government, should inquire whether the amount we get from the Government of India is equal to what we spend on this head. A settlement of the amount was made years ago. The costs have since gone up and the salaries of the officers employed in this Department have been considerably increased. What I beg to point out is that the settlement ought to be reconsidered in the light of the existing state of affairs, so that we may not be a loser in acting as agent of the Government of India.

There is one point with regard to what Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta has said.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Kumar Sahib, we need not go into that question. This is not a game of fencing, parrying, and thrusting. We need not go further into the domestic trouble at all.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I have only to say that we fully realize the extent of the strength of our position in this Council and what I have suggested is for the best interests of the country and nothing else.

Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY: I move that the demand of Rs. 8,82,000 under "6C.—District Executive Establishment" be reduced by Rs. 50,000.

In moving this reduction I advance the plea of retrenchment. On examining the details we find that the number of superintendents has been increased by one resulting in an increase in expenditure of Rs. 14,000, the number of clerks has been increased by three, and the number of servants by four. We also find that one item alone, travelling allowance, swallows up Rs. 1,50,000, while we are asked to sanction Rs. 25,000 for temporary establishment. I hope the Council will see the reasonableness of lopping off the increases and reducing the travelling allowance. Between these I hope there will be no difficulty in making a reduction of Rs. 50,000, if not more. No case has been made out for an increase in officers and the establishment. The Retrenchment Committee have referred to a reduction in the rate of travelling allowances and I hope effect will at once be given to their recommendation on this point resulting in the saving of a considerable sum.

With these words, Sir, I move this reduction in the demand for grant.

Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur: It is quite evident that all my motions were meant for the purpose of inviting a discussion on the subject. It was indeed a grand tactical move on the part of His Excellency to address this Council yesterday and His Excellency's speech foreshadowing retrenchments has disarmed all opposition to the demands for grants and there is nothing to debate upon. This is also clear and evident to us, from the very edifying quarrel between the Kumar Sahib and Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta——

Mr. PRESIDENT: Rai Bahadur, you need not refer to it. I, personally, have had enough of it.

Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur: These two gentlemen declare themselves to belong to the Opposition, but we do not belong to any opposition, and never oppose Government measures merely for the sake of opposition. So it seems that this grand tactical move has brought about a very satisfactory state of things and it is indeed a sight for the gods to see these two gentlemen belonging to the Opposition fighting with each other.

Mr. S. M. BOSE: Is the Rai Bahadur in order?

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have already asked you, Rai Bahadur, not to discuss that subject any more. Will you please explain in what way the reduction of this item by one rupee can be effected?

Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur: It is evident, Sir, from the speech of the Hon'ble the Minister, as well as from what has fallen from Mr. Donovan, that these items which we consider to be unnecessary for the purposes of expenditure on this department are going to be curtailed, if not altogether omitted, that is to say, the amount spent on steam-launches and travelling allowances, etc., is to be appreciably reduced.

With these observations, I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn :—

"That the demand of Rs. 8,82,000 under the head '6.—Excise District Executive Establishment' be reduced by Re. 1 only."

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: I do not propose to refer to the domestic trouble which has come to our notice or to tell the House what the consequences are when birds in their little nests do not agree. I shall confine myself to the resolutions which have been moved and I take first the resolution of Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh Roy. Other members have tabled motions for the reduction of the number of inspectors and sub-inspectors in the districts. Now, Sir, this question is intimately involved in the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee because the Retrenchment Committee has proposed a reversion to the old system under which the Collectors and Deputy Collectors in districts played a great part in the administration of this department. The Government have not yet decided whether they will go back to that system or not, and if they do go back to that system there may or may not be considerable reductions. There may, of course, be considerable reductions of staff otherwise. In any case I can assure the members that this point is receiving consideration and that we are now endeavouring to see how we can reduce the staff of inspectors and sub-inspectors, without interfering with the efficiency of the department. The consequences will have to be looked into and I trust those members who have put in motions for reduction under this head will withdraw them and give the Hon'ble Minister an opportunity of examining the consequences. As the Hon'ble Minister has said, he will not cease his efforts until he has effected a saving of the last pie possible consistent with efficiency. I would therefore ask that these motions be withdrawn in the spirit shown by Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray.

Babu Annada Charan Dutta has dealt with the question of honoraria and travelling allowances. In this particular head if the Council will look at the estimates it will be found that the allotment made is Rs. 36,000 less than the revised figure for the current year. Further, the Hon'ble

Finance Member has made an announcement that he is going to apply his axe or his prunning knife or whatever weapon he has, in the near future, and we are going to suffer as much as any other department, and I would ask the Council to await the result of this application. The word "honoraria" is, however, misleading—there is no honorarium. The only item in this budget with which Babu Annada Charau Dutta's motion is concerned is travelling allowance.

The Kumar Sahib has referred to the Salt Department and has asked us to revise the settlement which we made with the Government of India. Unfortunately the Government of India have anticipated the Kumar Sahib. They went into the question and they allege that we are getting too much—that we are getting more than we should.

There is one misunderstanding of the figures in the budget. Babu Jogendra Nath Roy has said that there has been an increase of one Superintendent. Apart from the abolition of the post of Superintendent of the Excise Bureau, which the Nawab Sahib announced, if the hon'ble member will refer to the estimates, he will find that in another place we have reduced the number of Superintendents from 5 to 3, and there is no addition to their number. I can assure the House that the number of Superintendents all round has been reduced, not increased. The number of inspectors, sub-inspectors, clerks and menials has also been reduced—there has been no increase. We have moved men from Calcutta to the mufassal and *vice versa*, but the total is less than it was in the current year. There is a printing mistake about clerks, because the figure for last year's budget shows that we had two clerks less than we really had.

There only remains the question of temporary staff. I must make it clear, because I am afraid the reference to it in the estimates is not clear. The *pachwai* system in Asansol is in the experimental stage and some staff is necessary for this experiment. The staff there has been in existence for two or three years on a temporary basis, temporary, because by way of experiment. We do not want to make this staff permanent until decisions are arrived at on the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, because, as a result of retrenchment, we may be able to utilize officers found superfluous under other heads in those posts which we now call temporary. The other temporary posts are posts in the bonded ware-houses and in the Naogaon Co-operative Society for which the bonded warehouses and the Naogaon Co-operative Society pay the whole cost. We have also a few temporary staff for the *tari* tree tax, which is another experiment going on in Howrah and Hooghly. This will bring in a large increase in revenue and when some decision is come to with regard to the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, we shall decide whether this staff should be made permanent or not.

I trust that in view of these explanations and of the Nawab Sahib's announcement about retrenchment the motions will be withdrawn.

The motion standing in the name of Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh Roy, was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn :—

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 3,26,760 under '6C.—District Executive Establishment (transferred)—Pay of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors' be reduced by Rs. 15,000."

The motions standing in the names of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, Babu Annada Charan Dutta, and Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray were then put and lost.

The motion of Babu Jogendra Nath Roy was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn :—

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Upendra Lal Ray Bahadur was, in the absence of the mover, deemed to be withdrawn :—

"That the demand of Rs. 2,68,000 under the head '6.—Excise—Distilleries' be reduced by Rs. 10,000 from the provision of Rs. 66,336 for the pay of establishment."

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: I simply want to ask one question—whether the proposition that I have made has practically been accepted. I do not know whether the Hon'ble the Minister has made a definite pronouncement or not, but I think my proposition is a very modest one, and I know it will not affect the efficiency in the least and a saving can be made without curtailing the activities of the department in the least. I simply wait for a reply from the member in charge.

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: I could not catch what Professor Mukherji said.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: My simple question is whether my amendment has been practically accepted or not. If not, whether it will in the least effect the efficiency of the department if the demand is reduced by the amount I have suggested.

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: The answer to the question is that there is at present a special officer inquiring into these contingencies to see how far these reductions will affect the efficiency of the department, and when he has submitted his report, we shall carry out the reductions to the best of our powers.

The following motion was then by leave of the Council withdrawn :—

"That the demand of Rs. 54,000 for contract contingencies under the head '6D.—Distilleries' be reduced by Rs. 13,000."

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: I move that the demand for rewards under the head "6D.—Distilleries" be reduced by Rs. 30,000. It is gratifying to find that the expenditure under Rewards has decreased, but the rewards granted are certainly excessive and——

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: Will it satisfy the Rai Bahadur if we accept a reduction of Rs. 5,000 under this head?

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: I accept it.

The motion, as amended, was then put and agreed to.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 80,000 for rewards under the head '6D.—Distilleries' be reduced by Rs. 20,000."

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Satish Chandra Mukharji, was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 39,000 under the head 'Distilleries - Other non-contract charges' in the transfer head, be reduced to Rs. 30,000."

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Upendra Lal Ray Bahadur was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs 2,68,000 under the head '6.— Excise - Distilleries' be reduced by Rs. 40,000 from the provision of Rs. 2,00,500 for contingencies."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I move that the demand for Rs. 2,68,000 under the head "6.—Excise—Distilleries" be reduced by Rs. 20,000. In this connection I beg to mention one fact. It appears that a big amount of money was refunded to two companies during the last financial year and that was done either owing to some sort of miscalculation or because the department was very liberal in reducing the contract rates, and if that is the reason why a big amount of money has been asked for under "Other Contract Contingencies," I think I ought to draw the attention of the House to the two big items of Rs. 54,000 under "Other Contract Contingencies" and of Rs. 32,000 under "Other Non-Contract charges." These are two items sufficiently big enough to cover anything of that sort.

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: May I point out that there is no question of refund in these contingencies? The refunds referred to are not under these contingencies.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: May I inquire what these "Other Contract Contingencies" and "Other Non-Contract Contingencies" are?

Mr. PRESIDENT: We have completed Contract Contingencies under item 173.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: In that case it is useless for me to go on.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY: "That the demand of Rs. 2,68,000 under '6D.—Distilleries' be reduced by Rs. 20,000."

The following motion standing in the name of Maulvi Ekramul Huq was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 2,68,000 under head '6.—Excise—Distilleries' be reduced by Rs. 10,000."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: The motions that stand in my name are as follows:—

"That the demand under head '6.—Excise' for items other than rewards and contingencies and travelling be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000."

"That the demand for Rs. 2,08,500 for travelling allowances under the head '6.—Excise' be reduced by Rs. 52,125."

"That the whole demand of Rs. 3,12,317 for rewards and contingencies under head '6.—Excise' be reduced by Rs. 1,54,000."

In view of the fact that although there was no motion for reduction under certain heads, the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan thought fit to make reductions, I think it would be politic on our part to depend upon Government as regards reductions. I hope the Government are doing their best to accept the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee as far as possible, and as we are assured by His Excellency that the Hon'ble Mr. Donald is doing his best to reduce expenditure as much as possible, I think it would be politic on our part not to press these amendments.

The motions were then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I beg to move that the demand for Rs. 13,70,000 under the head "6.—Excise" be reduced by Rs. 5,50,000.

It is a large sum of money which I wish to cut, and my reasons are that the Retrenchment Committee has recommended a reduction to the extent of this amount. Secondly, I thought it necessary that the Council should have an opportunity of discussing the matter. I want a discussion in order to strengthen the hands of Government. I know—and we have been assured—that Government officials have a mind to consider the

suggestion of the non-official members. If we simply move an amendment without assigning any reason, that is a different matter; but if we do press it for the consideration of Government, and if the opinion of the Council is taken into consideration, it will strengthen the hands of Government and not embarrass them. With regard to this large item of Rs. 5,02,000, I cannot add any new grounds—I simply depend upon the views of the Retrenchment Committee, but there is an additional sum of Rs. 48,000 and I ask for a reduction of this amount which I hope will not affect the efficiency of the Department of Excise.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not quite understand your motion. Your motion is for a reduction of Rs. 5,50,000, and I do not know where you get this Rs. 48,000.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I base this figure Rs. 5,50,000 upon the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, but in regard to the other item of Rs. 48,000, I am just going to explain how I have arrived at that figure and why I recommend to the Council to consider it. I say that if there was the least apprehension that my proposal would have the effect of interfering with the efficiency of the department, I would have never moved for this reduction. It appears that the existing number of the posts of superintendent, inspectors, and sub-inspectors are going to be increased.

Mr. PRESIDENT: These have already been dealt with and it has been explained by the Government member that there are some printing mistakes in the figures.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: My position is this. If there are misprints and if Government have already accepted them, or are going to accept them, I have nothing more to say, but I have based my motion on the figures supplied in the budget, and in the circumstances I submit that I am fully justified in pressing the matter. The mere fact that I press the motion for the consideration of the Council is nothing more than to meet the wishes of those who are interested in the subject. I would have been the last person to press it if I had reason to believe that Government would be embarrassed thereby. If I get a satisfactory explanation from Mr. Donovan regarding this matter, then I shall consider whether I will withdraw the motion or not.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand for Rs. 13,76,000 under head " 6.—Excise (Transferred) " be reduced by Rs. 4,00,000.

I urge the acceptance of this amendment on the ground of economy. My proposal is more modest than that of the Retrenchment Committee, which has suggested a cut of over Rs. 5,00,000 under the head " Excise,"

Yesterday, the Hon'ble the Nawab Sahiib made a statement, but unfortunately, I did not catch the words which fell from him. That may be due to my fault or his fault or to the fault of the acoustic properties of this hall. But whatever that may be, I think it would have been more convenient to us if the speech were read by somebody else who had a louder voice.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I hope you will withdraw that last observation of yours. Your remarks about the acoustic defects of the hall are all right, but the remark of "having the speech read by somebody else" is out of order.

Dr PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I withdraw the last portion of what I said, but I did not want to make any reflection on the Nawab Sahib, I simply wanted to say that we did not hear what fell from him. I urge the acceptance of this amendment on the ground of economy. I also wish to say a few words on the excise policy of the Government. On page 19 of the statement I find the following words:—

> The good harvest of this year is expected to lead to a fall in the price of rice which generally causes an increase in consumption.

I submit that this is an immoral expectation, and it reveals an attitude of mind which I cannot too strongly condemn. Sir, it is known to every body how great the drink evil is in other so called civilized countries. During the late war, Mr. Lloyd George once declared—

> We are fighting against three principal enemies, Germany, Russia, and drink, and drink is the worst enemy of all.

Fortunately, thanks to the injunctions of Hindu *shastras* and the holy *Koran*, we have not yet arrived at that stage. But unless the excise policy of the Government is changed, unless it is definitely laid down that the policy of Government is to secure a steady decrease in the consumption of liquor, we shall fast approach that stage. I, therefore, desire to press upon this Council to demand a clear policy from Government which will be in force for a number of years, in the course of which the drink evil will be entirely eradicated.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 13,76,000 under the head "6.—Excise" be reduced by Rs. 3,00,000.

I may be impolitic, I may be tactless, I may even be called insane, but still I wish to move this motion, because I honestly feel that this reduction can easily be effected in this most extravagant department. The promptness with which some of the members of Government have come before this Council yesterday and to-day telling us that they are at once ready to reduce their demand by Rs. 1,00,0000 or more, shows that they had some extra funds up their sleeves—it shows that they had, as we

call in Bengali, *hater pānch*. They knew that their budget was over-estimated; there was something more than they wanted, and as soon as the hungry wolves came round demanding some reduction, they at once said—" we will reduce the demand by such and such amount." That shows that these departments are being extravagantly run, and I submit that when they have been able to reduce their demand by Rs. 1,00,000 they will be easily able to reduce it by Rs. 2,00,000 more. Then, Sir, I find myself in some difficulty in discussing the cuts that I can suggest, because the only answer that the Government is prepared to give us is that they have not been able to make up their minds. I must confess I do not understand this vacillation, because if we compare the recommendations of the Inchcape Committee with those of our Retrenchment Committee, the different attitude of the two Governments seem to be quite striking. The Government of India framed their budget according to the recommendations of the Inchcape Committee, but in spite of that the Assembly have made several cuts, but here the Government of Bengal seems to have kept aloof from or rather non-co-operated with the Retrenchment Committee, and even after three months, they say that they have not been able to make up their minds. This is a deplorable way of doing business.

The Excise Department is extravagantly managed as has been pointed out by the Retrenchment Committee. I feel that a cut of Rs 3,00,000 would not be very severe.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand for Rs. 13,76,000 under head " 6.—Excise " be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000.

Whatever the Government might say, however ingenious the special pleadings may be, and however specious may be the arguments used, neither the excise policy of the Government nor the excise expenditure of the province can really be defended. I would take up the question of the excise policy first. It is said that the Government policy is to secure the largest revenue with the least consumption and thus to co-operate with " reasonable temperance movement." But what are the results of the Government policy? These are firstly an increase in drunkenness; secondly, an increase in the consumption of all commodities except the country liquor; and thirdly, unwillingness to prohibit even the use of those drugs which are most injurious and least revenue-yielding. Sir, statistics show that, from the year 1915-1916 to the year 1919-20, the number of convictions due to drunkenness rose from 9,320 to 11,147 in the municipal areas and even in Calcutta it went up from 6,321 to 7,928, i.e., there was an increase of about 1,600 convictions in five years. This is indeed a deplorable situation and under these circumstances we are not logically justified in concluding that the Government policy is not leading to intemperance. Then, again, if we look to " consumption," we find from the departmental report published in the year 1919-1920, that save and except in the case of country spirit, the

consumption of all other excisable commodities have increased and have been increasing. "The imports of wine," says the report, "have been unprecedented," "all qualities" except some, "showing an advance." Consumption of spirits was much in excess of arrival. Consumption of *ganja* increased in 20 out of 27 districts and by a total of 76 maunds 8 seers, and not only consumption but cultivation too increased. So, also the consumption of the other hemp drugs, opium, etc.

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: May I ask, Sir, from where the hon'ble member is quoting his figures?

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I have taken these from the Government report of 1919-20.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): We are discussing the budget of this year and the hon'ble member is quoting figures from a report of the pre-reforms days. Is that relevant?

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: But that is the latest report which is available.

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: It is not. Here is the latest report.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The point is, Harendra Babu, whether your figures are relevant to the present debate. I have had a copy of the latest administration report of the Excise Department handed to me. It is of the year 1921-1922.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: Government has not yet circulated it to us.

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: If the hon'ble member had asked for a copy he could easily have got one. It is also in the Council Library here.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think, Harendra Babu, you should confine yourself to the current report.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: Very well, Sir. Now, if there has been a decrease in the consumption of excisable articles thereafter, and the situation has improved since, then, we all know—and the country knows—what it is due to. It was due to efforts in some other quarters, and to factors which were working in spite of the Government—I mean the non-co-operation movement. Coming next to the excise expenditure, what do we see? We see that Bengal is one of the few provinces in India where the Excise Department is most extravagantly run and where excise expenditure is out of all proportion to excise revenue. Compare the excise revenue and the excise expenditure in

Bengal with those of Madras. It will be seen that while Madras realizes the largest revenue under this head, amounting to Rs. 5,00,00,000, it budgeted it 1922-23 a total expendieture of Rs. 32,00,000. On this basis, Bengal, having an excise revenue of Rs. 2,00,00,000 should not spend more than Rs. 13,00,000. Then again, Sir, United Provinces has got an excise revenue of Rs. 1,70,00,000, i.e., only Rs. 30,00,000 or Rs. 35,00,000 less than that of Bengal. But instead of spending Rs. 16,00,000 like Bengal, it spends something like Rs. 6,50,000, only. Thus, we see, if we go upon facts and figures and not upon sentiment, neither the excise policy of the Government nor the excise expenditure in this province can be justified.

Now, coming to my motion, let me exphain what I mean by proposing a reduction of Rs. 2,00,000 in the Excise Budget and how I arrive at the figure. It will be noticed on referring to the report of the Retrenchment Committee that they propose to reduce expenditure under this head by a total amount of Rs. 5,02,000. Excluding for the present from this the saving that is expected by a reduction of the staff of inspectors, we are left with a proposed cut of Rs. 3,39,000. On a reference to the Budget for 1923-24, we see that while Rs. 18,81,000 was budgeted in 1922-23, the amount of expenditure that has been provided for 1923-24 on the basis of the revised estimate, is Rs. 17,82,000, i.e., a reduction of about Rs. 1,00,000 has been made. Now, subtracting this Rs 1,00,000 from the total cut proposed by the Retrenchment Committee, we see that we can yet propose a reduction of Rs. 2,39,000 on the basis of the report of the said Committee. My proposal, therefore, to reduce the demand by Rs. 2,00,000, is neither open to the objection that the inspectors will have to be discharged at a moment's notice—although the Retrenchment Committee consider that a substantial reduction in the number of inspectors can be made at once—nor will my proposal necessitate the abolition of the posts of Deputy Commissioner from the 1st of April next. I hope, therefore, that my proposal, following the line of least resistance, will be accepted by the Government if it is at all serious in the matter of retrenchment.

Mr. DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (Babu Surendra Nath Ray): Fortunately or unfortunately Government had anticipated my proposed cut of Rs. 1,00,000 and I have been told by Mr. Donovan and the Hon'ble the Minister that they were going to make that cut. In the circumstances I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 13,76,000 under the head '6.—Excise' be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000."

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: I oppose all these amendments and my grounds for opposition are these: All the arguments which we have heard in support of these amendments are—firstly, that the excise policy which

is being pursued by the Hon'ble the Minister is not the correct policy; and secondly, that some retrenchment can be effected without impairing the efficiency, and that is sought to be supported by quoting facts and figures from other presidencies and provinces. Sir, Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea, who is reputed to be an authority on Economics, remarked that the excise policy which was being pursued by the Hon'ble the Minister was not a good one. I think, Sir, the hon'ble member, while dreaming of his theories, could not properly catch the words of the Hon'ble the Minister when he enunciated his policy some time back. While discussing the general principles of the budget, the Hon'ble the Minister clearly and lucidly explained the policy which he had been following during the years of his administration for giving effect to the temperance movement. Sir, we have heard much about the theory and ideal of my hon'ble friend, Dr. Banerjea, but from this authority on Economics I am sorry I could not get any constructive suggestion. It is always very easy to say that this policy is bad, that should be cut down, that is the worst possible evil, that should be done, and so on, and we must be angels on the face of the earth. But how is that to be done? How is Dr. Banerjea going to do that? The whole of his speech did not enlighten us a whit in the matter. Dr. Banerjea, while dreaming of his theories and ideals, did not care to meddle in worldly affairs—I mean the actual facts and figures. Let him dream in the ideal world, but we have got to deal with plain and simple facts. There is no gainsaying the fact that a certain policy has got to be pursued. The Hon'ble the Minister has pursued a certain policy and the sum and substance of that policy is that we must try to increase the price so that there may be less consumption and at the same time we may have sufficient revenue. The Hon'ble the Minister has minimized the time-limit and has also increased the age-limit. He has given sufficient details to indicate as to how he is pursuing the policy. I would have been quite glad to suggest a policy for the advancement of the temperance movement, but it must be—if I suggest some constructive scheme—a scheme which would be better than what has been sketched out by the Hon'ble the Minister. But, unfortunately, the Professor of Economics would not do it.

Then as regards the arguments of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta. His arguments come up to this that this Department of Excise could be run at a much less expense. Unfortunately, Mr. Dutta did not signify the particular items and I think, Sir, they have been discussed one by one in this Council before and after the House has come to a decision on those particular items. It is idle now to contend that, though we have failed to justify a reduction on those particular items, still we must cut down the thing as a whole. I think that the whole is made up of the units and if the units go then where will be the thing which is made up of those units? If Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta could justify his position by pointing out particular cuts that have to be made and if he could convince the House that these cuts could be made with advantage, then we would have been quite prepared to support his amendment.

Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri, with the usual acumen of a lawyer, quoted some cases which have got no bearing on the point. In the first place he quoted facts and figures of the pre-reforms days. Those are the facts and figures for which the old policy of the Government was responsible and so, as I have said, they have got no bearing on the point at issue. He could not refer to any recent figures and his only explanation was that he could not secure an up-to-date copy of the Excise Report. But I think he could have easily got a copy if he had made a serious attempt in the matter.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I asked for a copy from the Secretariat Book Depôt, but I could not get it.

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: Whom did the hon'ble member ask from?

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: From the Secretariat Book Depôt.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: However, Sir, so far as the present policy is concerned, I do not think my hon'ble friend has been able to satisfy this House that really even after this policy has been accepted by the Minister, the evil is still on the increase. The hon'ble member then referred to certain facts and figures from Madras and the United Provinces to show that in those particular provinces administration was being run on a less expensive scale, though the hon'ble member did not take the trouble of examining the details there. He could not point out that in each of those particular details Madras and the United Provinces Governments were carrying on the administration at such and such expenditure and with such and such staff, and so in Bengal, we ought to do it. Had the hon'ble member pointed that out, certainly this House would have been in a position to consider his proposal.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: The hon'ble member might read the budgets of those particular provinces.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: In that case, I am afraid the hon'ble mover of the amendment ought to have supplied us with a copy of the budgets of those two provinces. However, when one quotes facts and figures one has got to quote that which one is prepared to place before the House. The policy which the hon'ble member pursues in these matters is to use high sounding words and to quote facts and figures which are irrelevant and the House is not in a position to corroborate them. My hon'ble friend has got an opportunity of discussing each of these items and those minor heads before in this Council, but he did not quote these facts and figures to show that he really had made out a strong case. After failing to do that and after the House has come to a decision on the minor heads it is futile to say now that, though he could not point out any details, nevertheless the

policy is bad and, therefore, this amount must be cut down. It is quite absurd on the very face of it, and is not consistent with reason. Then, again, if my hon'ble friend had taken some pains to read the several official statements of the Excise Department, he would surely have been convinced that no better policy, so far as this Department is concerned, could have been followed by the Hon'ble the Minister. Throughout the speech of my hon'ble friend there is no constructive suggestion, but only criticisms. It would, therefore, be absurd now to ask the House to cut down the amount without any reference whatsoever to the details.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: May I say by way of personal explanation that I have not read the latest statement issued by the Department and the policy adumbrated there——

Mr. PRESIDENT: That is not a personal explanation, Harendra Babu.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: This is the second time that Mr. Syed Nasim Ali has taken up the cudgels on behalf of the Hon'ble the Minister of Excise in support of the excise policy that he is pursuing at present and in going to enunciate that policy on behalf of the Hon'ble the Minister he has himself fallen into a deplorable blunder. The policy, which governed the policy of the Excise Department in pre-reforms days, may be put in a nutshell in only one sentence, viz., "the maximum of revenue with the minimum of consumption." That theory has been exploded. That theory is no longer recognized as either sound or tenable by any civilized Government and that policy has also been given up by this Government. The Government policy is: minimum of consumption with a due regard to revenue and not a maximum of revenue with a minimum of consumption. But it must be said and plainly said that the Hon'ble the Minister of Excise has not yet accepted *in toto* the principle that has been accepted by this House. The principle that was accepted by this House in July, 1921, is the principle of the adoption of local option and that has not yet been accepted by the Government of Bengal. It is still under consideration. What has been done by the Government of Bengal is this: that they have simply reconstituted the Licensing Board of Calcutta with a non-official Chairman and a non-official majority where the underlying principle is a partial application of the principle of local option and, therefore it may be said that the Hon'ble the Minister has not yet seen his way to accept, as a whole, the policy that was laid down and accepted by this House. If the policy of local option is accepted, and if it affects the revenues of Government, the Government must face that issue—no matter where that issue will lead the Government to. A civilised Government is expected to accept the situation and to face it as it is: and if it leads to a reduction in revenue the issue must be accepted and faced as such. Government is not bound to have revenue from excise; if it is—as I have said over and over again in this House—

to be had at the expense of the physical, moral and intellectual degradation of 47 millions of people. Government has no right to do it. A sound policy must be adopted and I repeat again that the issue must be faced boldly and not evaded even if it leads to a reduction in revenue.

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: The excise policy of the Government of Bengal has been criticized by these motions from widely different and opposing standpoints. Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea—I hope he can hear me—has taken a certain statement from the Green Book and has charged us on that with entertaining immoral expectations. The statement is that excise revenue goes up when crops are good and as crops are good now excise revenue will go up in the coming year. That, Sir, is no immoral expectation. It is a mere statement of a fact, a lamentable fact which we all deplore, but nevertheless a fact. When people get extra money they spend some of it in drink. When there is a good crop people will have more money and will spend more money in drink. No one preparing the budget can ignore that fact, however much he may deplore it.

Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri has tried to criticize our policy by quoting figures of several years back. He stated that he could not get recent information from the Secretariat, but, Sir, a copy of the report is, I believe, available in the Council Library here. Sir, I do not know to whom he applied for information, but the persons from whom he should naturally have made inquiries were Mr. Mukherji and myself. Mr. Mukherji has never received any inquiry from him, nor have I. And, Sir, I may state for his information that we should have been very glad to send him a copy of the latest report or give him any other information in our possession if asked for. It is no use saying that he could not get a copy of the latest report. He saw me every day in the Council Chamber for weeks past and he could have easily asked me for any information that he wanted. Sir, there is something suspicious about the way he inquired about his information. If you go to the Co-operative Department and ask for a copy of the Excise Report you will naturally not get it. You might as well ask for a pint of *tari* in a haberdashery shop. I say, Sir, I have a shrewd suspicion that, as the recent figures would not have suited the arguments of the hon'ble member, he was not particularly anxious to get them.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: May I rise to a personal explanation, Sir?

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: Sir, may I ask what is the definition of personal explanation?

Mr. PRESIDENT: I cannot say that before the hon'ble member has offered his explanation.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: Sir, I asked for a copy from the Book Depôt but I did not get it.

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: Sir, I said that he did not ask either Mr. Mukherji or me and that even though he saw me every day in the Council he did not ask me. Therefore, I say, that as the figures would not have suited his arguments, I have a shrewd suspicion that he did not really want them. His statement of convictions was for a period before even the suggestions of the Reforms were made by Mr. Montagu. I will now place before the Council figures showing the number of convictions in Calcutta during the latest two years. There were only 5,599 convictions last year, as against 7,836 in the previous year, and I now repeat that these figures would not have suited the arguments of the hon'ble member. The same was the case in the mufassal.

Now, Sir, I turn to his figures of consumption. His figures of 1919-1920 and the previous year show a very convenient increase. They have supplied very suitable arguments to him. But, Sir, mine are the latest, the very latest figures, for consumption. There were 599,415 gallons consumed last year as compared with 766,572 gallons in the previous year. And, Sir, the consumption of ganja and opium fell off last year in the same ratio.

He then turned to compare the revnue of Bengale with that of the provinces of Madras, the United Provinces, and Bombay. Well, we have not got the figures of these provinces, but I think after the effort which the hon'ble members made in producing the latest figures for Bengal, the Council will have some justification for thinking that perhaps he made the same mistake in connection with the other provinces.

I am not prepared to accept the figures that he has given as the latest figures for these provinces. I can give you some of the latest figures, the very latest. We have been accused of encouraging drunkenness in order to get revenue, and the administrations of Madras, Bombay, and the United Provinces have been held up before us as models. In Bengal the average revenue from excise per head of the population is Re. 0-6-5, in Bombay it is Rs. 1-14-3, in Madras it is Rs. 1-2-6.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: These figures were not given to me.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Harendra Babu, I want to explain to you that if you use a boomerang, you must not be surprised if it comes back on you.

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: I hope, Sir, the interruptions have now finished. In Bengal the average revenue from excise per head of the population is Re. 0-6-5, in Bombay it is Rs. 1-14-3 and in Madras, the other model which has been held up before us, it is Rs. 1-2-6; that is to

say, if we are degrading our people to the extent of Re 0-6-5 in Bengal in order to get this revenue, they are degrading them in Madras to the extent of Rs. 1-2-6 and in Bombay Rs. 1-14-3. I ask you, Sir, and I ask this House which is the policy that is the best; which is the policy that is going to appeal to the members of this House? What should we take as our model? Bengal, which takes Re 0-6-5 out of the people or Bombay and Madras which take Rs. 1-14-3, and Rs. 1-2-6 respectively.

Professor Mukherji, who is one of the most sympathetic members of the House in regard to the policy of this department, has, very correctly, I think, stated what the policy of the hon'ble the Nawab Sahib is in regard to this department. I think everyone will remember what the Nawab Sahib said yesterday, viz., "there is something which I shall not sacrifice either to revenue or to economy, and that is the uplift of the people." I believe he used these words yesterday evening, that he would not sacrifice this policy of the moral welfare of the people as far as the administration of the Excise Department is concerned—not even to revenue or to economy. Professor Mukherji also has referred to the decision of the Council in regard to the question of local option, and he has asked us what we have done in the meantime. He will admit that it is a revolutionary change which he advocates. The introduction of local option is a revolutionary change and it is not something which we can adopt at once; he will admit that since last July we have made a great advance towards that change, and I think he is aware that we are just now contemplating a step still further; that our intention is to give larger powers to the advisory committees in the districts. I think he will agree that our method of introducing this reform by gradual steps is probably better than the revolutionary and sudden introduction of this system, especially at a time when agitation is so rife and our action might be misinterpreted or utilized for sinister purposes.

After all in the discussion of the details of the budget I do not think there is any great necessity to repeat what has already been said. Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur, in discussing the details, has said that he took the Retrenchment Committee's report as his guide. Now the Retrenchment Committee had before them the original budget of the current year, and on that budget they have suggested a reduction of Rs. 5,02,000. Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur, however, takes the budget estimate for next year and on that he suggests a reduction of Rs. 5,50,000. He has forgotten that we have taken off Rs. 1,00,000 already; that Rs. 2,00,000 suggested by the Committee is not in our power; we do not pay it; it is on account of salt and is an Imperial matter; that takes away Rs. 3,00,000. The other Rs. 2,00,000 partly concerns the Calcutta Collectorate, and as the Nawab Sahib said yesterday, we are only waiting for the consent of the Auditor-General to take the Calcutta Collectorate off our estimates. He has forgotten that the Nawab Sahib announced to-day a reduction of Rs. 40,000 on account of steam-launches,

boats and the abolition of the post of the Superintendent of the Excise, Bureau. We have, in fact, retrenched under every head possible. He has conveniently forgotten all that. However, it is something to be thankful for that we have seen Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur in a mood of economy; if he had been in this mood some two or three years ago, the budget estimate might not have been so high to-day.

What I have said about his equally applies to all the suggestions of the other members who moved these general motions.

Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta and Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea and Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri did not bring forward anything new. I do not wish to take up the time of the House by repeating what has been said before and what everybody has understood by now, but I do wish the House to realize that in our policy and in our administration we are out to meet the wishes of the public, and the unanimous wishes of this House. We will co-operate in any reasonable temperance movement; that is our policy; it is also our policy to co-operate with any reasonable retrenchment committee whether the personnel include Mr. Spry or Mr. Marr, a gentleman from London or one from Aberdeen or, like myself, from the best country of the three, a boast, Sir, which I hope the Council will allow me on St. Patrick's Day.

The motions standing in the name of Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur, Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, and Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri were then put and lost.

The original demand under the head "6.—Excise," as settled in Council, was then put and agreed to.

7.—STAMPS.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. J. Donald): I move that a sum of Rs. 8,89,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "7.—Stamps."

The facts are stated on page 27 of the Green Book and it is not necessary for me to say anything further.

The following motion standing in the name of Maulvi Ekramul Huq was, in the absence of the mover, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 8,89,000 under the head '7.—Stamps' be reduced by Rs. 80,000 from the provision under Non-Judicial Stamps."

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I move that the demand for Rs. 8,89,000 under the head "7.—Stamps" be reduced by Rs. 75,000.

This motion undoubtedly has reference to a recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee; but nevertheless I have thought it fit to discuss this item at this stage, because if we are to take any action in this

matter, it must be taken before the commencement of the next official year. The cut refers to the commission paid to vendors for the sale of judicial and non-judicial stamps. Sir, it was dire necessity which compelled this House to increase the stamp duty, but we never contemplated this reciprocity of taxation. We now find that while the Government have taxed the people to carry on the administration, the vendors in their turn have imposed a tax on Government to fill their pockets. This, I should say, is not in the least justifiable. The enhancement of the stamp duty has not in any way increased the work of the vendors and so I do not see any reason why they should be permitted to make a profit out of the difficulties of the Government. I do not think that they are entitled to any excess commission on this account; so I suggest that this matter should attract the notice of the Finance Department.

The following motion standing in the name Rai Upendra Lal Ray Bahadur was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 8,89,000 under the head '7.—Stamps' be reduced to Rs. 8,50,000."

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: This matter is receiving consideration. But there is a curious mistake in the report of the Retrenchment Committee; because though the stamp duties have increased, the charges on account of discount do not correspondingly increase. In the case of non-official stamps the account of commission payable to vendors is on a diminishing scale, lesser commission being paid on higher valued stamps than on those of lower value. The charges on this account have not thus increased in proportion to the increased rates of duty. We are making inquiries into the matter; vendors, no doubt, will try to dodge in some way to avoid a loss to themselves, but the matter is being looked into. I am, however, a little doubtful whether the amount can be cut down.

The motion standing in the name of Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The original demand that a sum of Rs. 8,89,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "7.—Stamps" was then put and agreed to.

8.—Forests.

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [FORESTS] (Mr. M. C. McAlpin): On behalf of the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur, I move that a sum of Rs. 7,50,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "8.—Forests."

This department is a revenue-producing department, and though owing to financial conditions we have had to curtail expenditure, we have been very careful in cutting it down so as not to impair revenue. There are many schemes in this depratment which must, however, be taken up

before long, otherwise our revenue will be affected. We should, of course, have been much happier if we could have had some extra money to utilize for scheduled schemes; as it is we can only regret we cannot ask for more.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 54,000 under head "8B.—(*b*)—Establishments—Superior Officers" be reduced by Rs. 4,000.

He delivered his speech in Bengali, the translation of which is as follows:—

There is already a huge deficit in the Budget, and it is growing from bad to worse every day. The expenditure instead of being reduced is always increasing; Rs. 3,750 has been increased under this head this time, and three officers have been added. I do not see any reason for this excess demand. On hearing from the Hon'ble the Member in charge, I may withdraw my motion.

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: Having regard to the assurance given by the Hon'ble the Finance Member, I beg leave of the Council to withdraw the motion standing in my name.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 52,500 for travelling allowance under the head '8B.—(*b*)' be reduced by Rs. 20,000."

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the total demand for travelling allowances of Rs. 52,500 under '8.—Forests' be reduced by Rs. 13,125."

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I beg leave of you, Sir, to amend my motion a little bit; instead of Rs. 50,000 I wish it to be Rs. 20,000.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You cannot do that at this stage. Why do you want to do it?

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: In my original manuscript the figure was Rs. 20,000, and it is through a clerical mistake that it has been printed as Rs. 50,000.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Very well. You may change the figure to Rs. 20,000.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand of Rs. 3,53,000 under head "8B.—Forest Establishment" be reduced by Rs. 20,000. On referring to page 42 of the White Book we find that under the head of "pay of establishment" there is an increase of Rs. 20,000

in the budget of this year. The revised estimate for the year 1922-23 was Rs. 2,36,000, but for the year 1923-24 the establishment charges have been increased to Rs. 2,57,000 without any explanation of the reason for this increase. That is why I move my motion for reduction.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 3,53,000 under "8.—Forests—Establishment" be reduced by Rs. 17,650. My sole object in moving that the demand be reduced by the small amount of Rs. 17,650 in the establishment charges is only to draw the attention of the Government to the defective policy followed in regard to the Forest Department. Sir, the forests are the natural wealth of the country and the more they are developed the better for the economic improvement of the people, and, ultimately, of the Government. It has, however, been admitted that no money will be practically set apart for the development of the forests this year. Last year, in spite of my questions and the hopes held out by the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan regarding the khedda operations in the Chittagong forests it appears that no such provision has been made. So the same strength of staff or establishment need not be continued, and consequently there should be some reduction of the amount required for the same. That is why I have moved my motion for reduction.

The following motion, standing in the name of Maulvi Ekramul Huq was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 3,53,000 under the head '8.—Forests—(*b*)—Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 10,000."

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand under the head '8.—Forests' for the items other than travelling be reduced by Re. 1."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 7,50,000 under the head "8.—Forests" be reduced by Rs. 10,000. Sir, the nominal amount of reduction that I propose to make in this demand will convince the House that what I desire is only to discuss the policy of this department and not to make any retrenchment. Sir, I am sorry to find that in this department, which is also in charge of the Hon'ble Member for Revenue, the process of de-Indianisation of the services has gone on apace. Whereas in the cost of establishment for 1922-23 the non-voted item was Rs. 23,000 only, as compared with Rs. 1,08,000 voted, in the present budget we find that the procedure has been practically reversed, so that, on the voted side, the amount has been reduced to Rs. 54,000 and on the non-voted side the amount has been increased to Rs. 1,69,000.

Many of us have been told that the Forest Training College, at Dehra Dun produces excellent Indian officers for the Provincial Forest

Service. Government has admitted in their reports times without number that these officers have rendered excellent services. In view of this admission, of the good work done by these officers and in view of the main principle of the Reforms, it is astonishing to find that the process of de-Indianization should be going on in this department. I earnestly appeal to the Hon'ble Member in charge to see that in this department, at any rate—where able men are available, and, Indian officers in fact, have been spoken well of by Government—he will kindly see his way to provincialize the superior services.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [FORESTS] (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): I am sorry I was not present here to move the demand for the Forests Department.

I think I should first of all reply to Shah Syed Emdadul Haq in connection with his motion for the reduction of Rs. 4,000. He wants to know whether there has been any increase in the number of officers in this department. If that is his point, I may assure him that there has been no change in the number of provincial officers employed in this department.

Shah Syed Emdadul Haq's motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: As regards items Nos. 196 and 197, they have been withdrawn. I will now proceed to reply to the amendments of Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri and Babu Annada Charan Dutta. Babu Annada Charan Dutta's figure for reduction is Rs. 17,650 which he calls a very small amount; evidently Rs. 17,650 is only a pittance to him.

Regarding these two items I should like to mention that under the head "Subordinate Forest Establishment" there is in the present budget an excess provision of Rs. 13,700 over what is actually required this year. There has been no increase in the establishment and the amount given in the budget is that accepted by the Accountant-General as required under the present conditions, taking, presumably, into account the increments of pay. Under the head "Office Establishment" there is an excess provision of Rs. 11,000 over what is required this year. This is due to the revised scale of pay for clerks and the increments they will be entitled to next year. There has been an extra provision of Rs. 4,250 required for the special allowances to be paid to the recruits to the Imperial Forest Service who join this year. We have also made a provision of Rs. 6,000 in the budget for increase of pay in the Provincial Forest Department. Unlike the other services in India the Provincial Forest Service was not benefited by a single pie from the proposals of the Public Services Commission, and this has led to considerable discontent among the members. Their present pay, which ranges from Rs. 250—750, is, in the opinion of the Government, sufficient, but in view of the various increments which are being allowed to the other officers, we are giving them Rs. 40 per

month extra. The Council will, I think, therefore, agree that this was about the least that we could do. The amounts required under "Contingencies and Travelling Allowances" are the minimum and cannot be reduced. I hope, Sir, that after the statements I have made the movers will see their way to withdraw their motions; if they do not, I must, on behalf of Government, oppose them.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: After hearing the Hon'ble Member I beg to withdraw my motion.

The motion standing in the name of Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The motion standing in the name of Babu Annada Charan Dutta, was then put and lost.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I believe Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta accused me of having up my sleeve what he called the trump card with regard to the Forest Department. His criticism with regard to the more Indianization of the Forest Services will be noted, but in this connection I should like to point out to him and the Council that this matter is entirely out of the hands of the Provincial Government, it being the chief concern of the Imperial Government to consider the whole question of the Indianization of the Services, but as I say, this matter will be noted. From my experience so far as the provincial men who come forward as recruits in the Forest Department, I may say that, although a goodly number of them give promise at the beginning, they do not prove very successful at the end. But, however, that does not take us away from the main question, namely, the Indianization of the Services, which will be considered in due course.

As regards the cut of Rs. 10,000 the only difference between this and the two previous motions is that Mr. Dutta wants that the reduction should be spread over not only the establishmnt charges but also the charges of conservancy and working. I have, Sir, already dealt with the establishment charges. As regards the conservancy and working charges I may say the sum is less than the revised estimate by Rs. 21,000, or less than the budget estimate by Rs. 71,000 and less than the actual for 1921-22 by about Rs. 43,000. So, no further reduction is possible if the department is to continue to be a revenue-producing one. I, therefore, hope that Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta will withdraw his motion; in any case I have got to oppose it.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Before the question is put, may I ask a question, Sir? Will the Hon'ble the Revenue Member be pleased to state if there is any record of provincial officers having proved unsuccessful in an Imperial Service post?

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I am afraid I cannot give the information off-hand. I believe such records will not be found wanting.

The motion standing in the name of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta was put and lost.

The original demand that a sum of Rs. 7,50,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "8.—Forests" was then put and agreed to.

9.—REGISTRATION.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter): I move that a sum of Rs. 18,37,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "9.—Registration."

[At this stage the Hon'ble the President left the Chamber and Mr. Deputy-President took the Chair.]

It will appear from page 25 of the Green Book that a sum of Rs. 17,71,000 was originally sanctioned under this head, for the year 1922-23, but subsequently this Council voted an additional grant of Rs. 1,60,000 in the August session, thereby making a total of Rs. 19,31,000. It will be remembered that in our budget estimate for 1923-24 we asked for Rs. 18,41,000. The revised estimate will show that we have reduced this grant of Rs. 19,31,000 to Rs. 17 lakhs only. It will, therefore, appear that we have already retrenched to the extent of Rs. 2,31,000 out of Rs. 19,31,000. I claim, Sir, the retrenchment already effected of our own motion has been a substantial one. Indeed, next year's budget estimate shows a total demand of Rs. 18,41,000 including non-voted items for scheduled areas. Now this Rs. 18,41,000 requires a word of explanation. Hon'ble members will remember that this includes the provision of Rs. 1,92,000 for the revision of pay of sub-registrars, while the revised budget estimate of the current year, namely, Rs. 17 lakhs includes only a small provision thereof, e.g., Rs. 48,000 only as the salary of sub-registrars revised only for the last quarter of this year, so that under the head of "Increased salary of Sub-Registrars" we have in this Rs. 18,44,000 included Rs. 1,44,000; if we exclude this Rs. 1,44,000 the total figure is Rs. 16,19,000 and with this amount we propose to run the department next year, which, as I have already said, is a retrenchment to the extent of Rs. 2,31,000. These figures will now convince the House that the estimates for 1923-24 are framed on the basis of the strictest economy. I appreciate, however, the motive which has induced some of my friends in suggesting various cuts, but I trust they will realize that if in addition to this Rs. 2,31,000 any further cuts are effected then such cuts may lead to the serious breakdown of the Registration Department. I trust that hon'ble members will keep in view two points, viz., that the Registration Department is a profit-earning department and that the public, specially

the poor, are vitally interested in the efficient administration of this department.

The Registration Department, my friends will remember, is a transferred department and the Legislative Council is responsible for voting money for the efficient administration of this department. I trust, therefore, that my friends will appreciate their responsibility as also my responsibility in the matter. After placing the necessary facts before the House my responsibility to a great extent is minimised, and any breakdown of the department which may be due to any hasty but well intentioned cut against my advice will, I believe, be the responsibility of the members of this House and not mine. Now after these preliminary remarks I desire to say a few words with regard to some of the motions for reducing the various demands. These motions are roughly divisible into the following main heads:—

(*a*) motions for cutting down the number of existing officers whether for superintendence or for district charges. Motions under this head are, I believe, mainly based on the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee;

(*b*) motions for reduction of travelling allowance; and

(*c*) motions for reduction of temporary establishment.

As regards (*a*) as motions for cutting down the number of existing officers on the basis of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, the House will remember that His Excellency has already announced the decision of the Government in the matter. I may assure the House that before we announce the decision of the Government to this House in July next, we shall very carefully consider every recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee with regard to the abolition or amalgamation of the posts. Whatever my personal views on the subject may be, I am precluded in view of the decision of the Government from placing such views before the House at this stage, but I can tell the House that we shall give every consideration to the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee.

As regards (*b*), namely about travelling allowance, the House had certain assurances already given to it by the Hon'ble the Finance Member of the Government, but I may, on my part, assure the House that I shall try to keep down expenditure as much as possible and that the passing of the budget grants will not mean that any unnecessary travelling allowance will be allowed to incur. The travelling allowance under the head "Superintendence" was Rs. 10,000 in the year 1922-23. The actual of the year 1921-22 was Rs. 9,297. This year we have reduced it to Rs. 9,000. The travelling allowance under the head "District Charges" was Rs. 28,900 according to the budget estimate of 1922-23, and the actual of 1921-22 was Rs. 29,482 and in the next year's estimate we have reduced it to Rs. 26,000. As compared with the actuals of

1921-22 we have reduced it to Rs. 26,000. As compared with the actuals 1921-22 we have reduced it by about Rs. 3,500. This figure will indicate that we are quite alive to the need for economy. We have on our own motion reduced the demand for travelling allowance.

As regards temporary establishment the House will find that in the year 1922-23 there was a budget provision of Rs. 2,20,000; the actual of 1921-22 was Rs. 2,04,484; and in the next year's budget the estimate is only Rs. 1,50,000 as compared with Rs. 2,20,000; this means a very good saving. Here again I trust that the figures will convince the House that they need not be apprehensive. In my budget speech last year I explained that it was not a good move to make too severe a cut in temporary staff, since the inevitable result of such a cut would be that arrears would accumulate and that a heavy surplus staff would have to be employed in order to deal with such arrears. In the last budget debate some hon'ble members suggested that I should try to reduce further the temporary establishment. I made a serious attempt in that direction. The result, however, was that complaints were received from all parts of the province, especially from the public. Those who complained stated that the reduction of the temporary staff resulted in a serious accumulation of arrears causing great inconvenience to the public. I also explained to the House that temporary establishment in the Registration Department meant a great economy. The work of a sub-registry office is fluctuating and the strength of the permanent staff is fixed on the basis of work in the slack season and is supplemented by a temporary copying establishment which is kept on a piece-work system. The temporary establishment is a source of profit to the Government and any cuts which will result in the delay of the delivery of the registered documents will not only inconvenience the public but will also mean a loss of revenue to the State which I am sure my friends do not desire. Members who have experience of the rural areas know that parties have to come from a considerable distance to take delivery of their documents and undue delay will be a source of hardship and inconvenience to the poorer section of the public and perhaps some loss to the department. The temporary establishment also means a fair amount of saving in pension and leave charges. It is a system which has worked well and undue economy in this direction will, as I have already explained, cause loss to the State and inconvenience to the public. I suppose that the use of the word " temporary " has sometimes led some members to put in motions for reduction without fully realizing what the effect will be.

Now with your leave I shall say a few words which will give the House some idea of the general activities of this department and I desire to place before the House this idea in view of the 31 amendments that have been tabled. I believe that when the House realizes the nature of the activities of the department, they will take much less time in moving

these amendments. The administration of the Registration Department in the Presidency of Bengal is divided into 27 registration districts. The department deals with 417 registration offices and they have about 4,250 employees spread over the 27 districts with an area of 78,000 square miles. Many of the rural offices are located in out-of-the-way places. Considerations of posting, transfer, leave retirement and pension have to be dealt with from the headquarters. Besides the administration of the Registration Department, the department deals with Muhammadan marriage registration and there are over 300 Muhammadan marriage registration offices. They also deal with the registration of births as also Marriage Registrars appointed under the Indian Christian Marriage Act, XV of 1852. Besides they have the charge of collection of returns of births, marriages and baptisms of all European Christians and they are entrusted with the transmitting of all these to Great Britain so far as European British subjects are concerned. Then the department is also in charge of Civil Marriage Act Officers and there are 44 Civil Marriage Registrars for different parts of the province. They are also in charge of all original State documents relating to Government properties situated outside Calcutta and of registration of all books printed in Calcutta. The number of documents registered in the year 1920 was over 2,100,000. The revenue realized directly by the Registration Department is about Rs. 24 lakhs. Besides this direct realization in the shape of registration fees the collection of revenue from non-judicial stamps amounts to Rs. 1,24 lakhs. These collections depend largely on the efficient administration of the department. Now the present system has been in force from 1865. Even if it be desirable to change the system, it will not be wise to change the system on a fortnight's notice. Any cuts as regards the abolition of posts or change of system will mean that the experience gathered from 1865 onwards will have to be given the go-by and the new system will have to be introduced in 15 days' time. After all, what do we want? We have promised the House that we shall consider the whole matter and place our decision before the House in July. I put it to the House, is three months' time too much for effecting changes in an important department like this in dealing with such important matters? I trust that my friends will not press their amendments after this.

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: After the statement made by the Hon'ble the Minister that the whole question will be considered soon, I do not feel inclined to press this motion before the House, but one fact I must mention here and it is this. There is a feeling in certain quarters that the Inspector-General of Registration is an officer recruited from the Provincial Service and this is a service which is open to Indians. I do not lay any stress in this point. It matters little whether the Department is in the hands of an Indian or an I.C.S. gentleman. The question is whether this appointment is at all necessary or whether it should not be

abolished altogether. The Retrenchment Committee have recommended that the post be abolished and the Department placed under the control of the Commissioner of Excise. It is possible to effect retrenchment in that way. If the Department is amalgamated with another department, by placing it under the control of the Commissioner of Excise, I do not think that there will be any chance of the work being deteriorated. As the Hon'ble the Minister has given the Council an assurance that the whole question will be considered soon, I do not press this motion and beg leave to withdraw it.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 18,37,000 under the head '9.—Registration' be reduced by Rs. 26,400 being the amount representing the pay of the Inspector-General and his personal staff."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I move that the demand for Rs. 16,200 for the Inspector-General under "9.—Registration" be refused.

I fully appreciate the spirit in which the Hon'ble the Minister in charge has made his observations and also fully appreciate the sincerity underlying his observations that an earnest effort will be made for the purpose of making the reduction proposed, but in spite of that I find that there are strong reasons for pressing this motion upon the House even at this stage. It is not from the point of view of the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee that the post of Inspector-General of Registration may be amalgamated with that of the Excise Commissioner as to which also I offered certain observations during the general discussion of the budget.

[At this stage the Hon'ble President returned to the Chair.]

But it is for other obvious reasons. The duties enumerated by the Hon'ble the Minister may look multifarious, but if you look into the real quantity of the work you will find that the work which the Inspector-General of Registration is required to do is certainly not such that we should really maintain such an officer upon such a high pay. The charm of having an Indian of the class of the Deputy Magistrate over a very big department had its fascination no doubt one day, but now is the time of stringent economic conditions, we ought to be on the look-out for every avenue in order to economize, and here is a case which is to the point. The point is that the post of the Inspector-General of Registration is superfluous. If it is done away with the work can be very well managed by the other departments. It may be remembered that at least for the last few years during the major part of the year the gentleman who now holds the post of the Inspector-General of Registration has got to go to Simla and Delhi to attend the meetings of the Council of State. If that is so, it proves that the appointment is not necessary. Last year when the point was pressed before the Council, the Hon'ble the Minister came forward to

reply that the work would not suffer because, though the gentleman went away under the mandate of the Supreme Government, still an officiating arrangement had to be made. If the gentleman who holds the real position can be spared for the major part of the year under an officiating arrangement, I believe that sort of arrangement may continue a little further and this would lead to economy. The duties of the Inspector-General of Registration were defined by the Hon'ble the Minister last year to be only to go out to the districts and to get knowledge of the details by inspection of registration offices. This might as well be done by undoubtedly able, perhaps abler officers who hold the posts of District Collectors, who are all I.C.S. officers, without bringing any reflection upon this or that gentleman, but only referring to the general status of the people, who have got to do the work. Now that the Collectors are rid of a great part of the work and in these days when there are so many Sub-divisional Officers to whom most of the criminal and revenue works is delegated, I trust that the District Magistrates can be trusted to have effective supervision over a small number of registration officers in the district. After all, throughout Bengal we have been told that there are only 471 sub-registry offices and the staff is only small—perhaps half a dozen petty clerks in each district. They can be very effectively supervised by the District Officers. So, what is the necessity, what is the reason for having such a highly paid post at the headquarters? I submit that it cannot but be confessed that to some extent at least this appointment is superfluous and that the work he has to do can be effectively done by other agencies. With these words I beg to press my motion.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 10,200 for the pay of the Personal Assistant to the Inspector-General of Registration under the head "9A.—Superintendence" be refused.

If we are not to discuss any amendment which has any connection with any recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee, then, I should seriously suggest you might be pleased to adjourn the Council *sine die*. It would save much time of the Council, it would save much money, and would save much time of the Government also because from the demoralization that has set in this Council I feel that, when amendment after amendment is being withdrawn, it would be best that the whole list of amendments be withdrawn altogether.

Though this post has been proposed to be abolished by the Retrenchment Committee, I approach this matter from a different standpoint altogether. I do not say that this might be amalgamated with the Department of Excise but I do say that it might be amalgamated with the Department of Co-operation. We who have been connected with the Co-operative Department for more than five or six years have seen how the number of superior officers has been increased from one to seven during the course of the last four years. We feel that there is not

enough work for all of them to do and if you are going to keep that department, as I think it is absolutely necessary to keep it, it is necessary that some more work should be given to them. In view of this, I beg to suggest that the Department of Registration might be placed in the hands of the Registrar of the Co-operative Societies. I should like to offer an explanation to this Council that in suggesting the abolition of this post I have no grudge against the officer who holds the post. He belongs to my own district of Tippera and as far as I know he is one of the most excellent officers of the department, but personal considerations should not weigh with us when we are out for economy. Therefore, I suggest that this post should be amalgamated with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. If the Inspector-General goes, then it naturally follows that his Personal Assistant should also go, because the Registrar of Co-operative Societies has a Personal Assistant of his own who would be quite able to take up this work. With these words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of this House.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I have explained the position in my opening speech and I shall be very brief. Even if every argument of both of my hon'ble friends be accepted, they will appreciate that the thing cannot be done at 15 days' notice. Then, whose suggestion am I to accept? Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta suggests that we should amalgamate the Registration Department with the Department of Co-operative Societies. Babu Annada Charan Dutta suggests that it should be amalgamated with the Department of Excise. This very divergence of opinion shows that it is a matter which requires serious consideration. Now I will put it to the House that if these amendments are accepted to-day and if the system which has been in vogue from 1865 onward has to be changed at 15 days' notice, the Registration Department will break down and after this if the House persists, the responsibility for the breakdown will be the responsibility of the House. However I do not think that my friends are really serious. I do not think that they really want the thing to be done in 15 days' time. I quite appreciate their anxiety that we should seriously take into consideration the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee and the suggestions made in the speeches here to-day. I have already promised that I shall take into consideration all these and after this assurance I trust that my friend, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta will withdraw his motion.

As regards Babu Annada Charan Dutta I believe that his own arguments show that the thing cannot be done at 15 days' notice. One of his arguments is that the Excise Commissioner's post should be combined with the Inspector-General of Registration. The Excise Commissioner has his important duties. Can the two offices be amalgamated? Now Mr. Dutta says that the post is not important. I put it to the House that any office which has the ordering of four thousand and odd men and which

deals with their appointment, dismissal and leave, is an important office, and it will not do to hand it over to a low-paid officer, nor will it be possible to change the system in a day. I do not think that I need take these amendments seriously. I have already assured the House that I will give every consideration to the matter.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Do I understand the Hon'ble the Minister to say that the proposal of amalgamation is receiving his serious attention now?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: The proposal of amalgamation, indeed every suggestion of the Retrenchment Committee is receiving the attention not only of myself but also of the Government, but the decision, as His Excellency has already explained to the Council, rests with the Government. I am not prepared to express my personal views one way or the other at the present moment.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: In view of what the Hon'ble the Minister has said, I beg to withdraw my motion.

The motion standing in the name of Babu Annda Charan Dutta was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The motion standing in the name of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta was then put and lost.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand for Rs. 24,420 under '9.—Registration—Other Gazetted Officers' be reduced by Rs. 6,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 24,420 under the head "9A—Superintendence—Other Gazetted Officers" be reduced by Rs. 4,420.

He delivered his speech in Bengali a translation of which is as follows:—

Pages 15 and 16 of the Retrenchment Committee's Report show that Rs. 45,000 has been recommended to be cut off from this head. From the speeches of His Excellency the Governor and the Hon'ble the Minister in charge, we gather that this matter will be fully considered in the July session of the Council. The July session is not far. His Excellency's statement convinces me, and so I withdraw this motion. But I might add here that it is a regrettable matter that these matters have not been dealt with in this session.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: Having regard to the assurance given by the Hon'ble the Minister, I beg leave to withdraw the motion standing in my name.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Travelling Allowance under the head '9A.—Superintendence' be reduced by Rs. 4,000."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I move that the demand for Rs. 9,000 for Travelling Allowance under the head "9.—Registration—Superintendence" be reduced by Rs. 2,000.

In view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble the Minister, I only move it formally.

Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: I move that the demand for Rs. 9,000 under head "9A.—Superintendence—Travelling Allowance" be reduced by Rs. 1,000.

I have no argument to add in addition to what I have advanced already in moving for reduction in travelling allowance under other heads. My sole object in moving this is to draw the attention of the Government to this matter, so that those travelling allowance bills may be properly scrutinized and the rules guiding this matter be accordingly modified.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: In my opening speech I have already told the House that I promise to scrutinize the matter, and I have already placed before the House figures showing that the budget estimates of this year are on a much lower scale than those of the previous year.

The motion standing in the name of Babu Annada Charan Dutta was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The motion standing in the name of Babu Hem Chandra Nasker was then put and lost.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 100 under head "9A.—Hill Allowance" be refused.

The amount is so trivial that I admit it is not worth anybody's while standing up here and asking for the saving of Rs. 100; but it is a question of principle. As regards the principle, I crave your indulgence to allow me to speak for a few minutes about what I feel. The hill exodus has been condemned times without number in this Chamber. Government also finally agreed to banish the big item giving the expenses for the hill exodus from the taxpayers' money and putting into the pockets of holiday-makers some extras in the shape of allowances, who assemble from time to time on the hill-tops and earn these allowances. But although the sheet of totalized expenditure has now disappeared from the Budget, as the result of adverse criticisms in this Chamber, the thing still remains and the taxpayers are still asked to pay what had been admitted by Government to be unjust. The expenditure has now been split up and scattered far and wide under various heads and sub-heads—a very weary process for any Councillor to get hold of them—far less the

heart to condemn. The sum in each individual case is so small, and then they are meant to give some money to the poor camp-followers and not to help the generals. I hear that the heads of departments are compelled to be in attendance on His Excellency the Governor, they themselves are not at all anxious to pass the delightful months of May and June and still more the glorious season of September and October in Darjeeling, nor do they require their rest—but they have to be in close attendance on His Excellency during these four months, who has to take all-sided interest in various departments, even to the minutest details, so much so that these heads of departments have to carry a large number of files and bundles and leave a large establishment behind, to be in close attendance in empty offices in Calcutta in picking out, despatching and receiving back files and bundles, many of which is this constant move up and down are often mislaid and not unoften get irretrievably lost. If such close attendance of the heads of departments on His Excellency be so very urgent and necessary, I wonder how they manage business during the time when His Excellency remains at Dacca or Chittagong or sails on board the *Rhotas* in the rivers Padma or Meghna.

The protest we have made is not against any rest or change the overworked officials want to have—the leave rules give them a month's holiday on full pay and they can always visit Darjeeling or any other sanatorium when they please. It is the dislocation of business—suspension of all routine and urgent work—break in the busy season, that we protest against. If any member has any doubt in the matter, I request him to watch the condition at the Writers' Buildings four times in the year when the work of dismantling, restalling, and re-erection of the departments go on, with the going out and coming back of these heads of departments, and I am sure if he would care to inquire into it, he would be quite convinced of the wanton dislocation of business at the sacrifice of the taxpayers' money.

I believe that of all the departments, the Inspector-General of Registration has more concern with the plains than with the hill-tops and has more to do with a large number of offices than with His Excellency the Governor.

I have one word more to add. Lord Carmichael made it a point to visit Calcutta at least once a month and often twice even during the hottest months of the year to meet and discuss all urgent matters. At that time it was not less necessary for the heads of the Government to be in touch with the various departments—still he preferred not to interfere with the ordinary process of work but came down to Calcutta every month. The travelling from Darjeeling has become more comfortable since. If the system be revived, His Excellency, I am sure, will grant all facilities to the Inspector-General of Registration for interview and consultation, whenever necessary. The reintroduction of Lord Carmichael's system

will put a stop to the dislocation of business four times a year with its attendant break and postponement of all work, urgent or otherwise. These four months of recess to the hills is a terrible period with people who have any business with the office of the Registration Department and the inconvenience should be removed by refusing this expenditure.

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: I understand, Sir, that this small amount of Rs. 100 is intended for the clerks in the Office of the Inspector-General of Registration. When the Inspector-General goes to Darjeeling, he goes there at his own expense. I think there is no necessity of pressing for my motion, as I do not like to deprive the poor clerks of the allowance. I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: My friend, Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur, has with his usual skill spun a beautiful story. He has given us a vision of the wicked Government members enjoying their holiday on the hill-tops and as a part of that vision, he thought that the Inspector-General, who is the head of a department and a member of the wicked gang, should have a place. So he has made it appear that the Inspector-General enjoys the pleasure of hill exodus. The facts are different, and my friend ought to know them well. My friend will be surprised to learn that this sum of Rs. 100 is not meant for the Inspector-General at all. He seldom goes there and if he chooses to go there, he does so at his own expense. If my friend really thought that this small sum was meant for the Inspector-General, I cannot but admire his acumen. The Inspector-General, I suppose, would be entitled to double first class fare and as everybody knows the figure will not cover double first-class fare to Darjeeling and back. This sum, I may tell my friend, is meant for the clerks, and peons, in case the Inspector-General is wanted at Darjeeling or in case he chooses to go there on his own initiative, paying his own expenses. I may add that every head of department who goes to Darjeeling pays his own expenses; but my friend, who has such beautiful visions of the wickedness of Government and its officers, may perhaps be interested to learn that when the Inspector-General goes to Darjeeling to inspect the registration offices there, he is entitled to his travelling expenses, but when he goes there as a part of the hill oxodus, he does not charge travelling but sometimes does inspection work. Last year we had to send for him, and he was at Darjeeling for three or four days only, at any rate less than a week, in connection with the reorganization scheme of the Registration Department and as that matter had to be dealt with by more than one department, his presence was necessary at Darjeeling; but there was, I believe, no expense to the State for his going there. The actuals for 1921-22 show that only Rs. 65 was spent; so all this eloquence falls to the ground.

Similar amendments which were put in by other members have been withdrawn, and I do not wish to comment on them. I hope my esteemed friend will also withdraw his amendment.

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion standing in the name of Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray was, in the absence of the mover, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 1,02,000 under the head, '9A.—Superintendence' be reduced by Rs. 22,000."

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 1,02,000 under the head '9.—Registration—Superintendence' be reduced by Re. 1 only."

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: The Hon'ble the Finance Member said the other day that the Government was going to announce in July next——

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: May I draw your attention to the fact that no specific sum is mentioned in this motion.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I cannot allow that. There must be a specific sum mentioned. It is out of order.

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: May I, Sir, have your permission to put in the figure "Rs. 5,000"?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: When once the list has been printed, is it permissible to allow it to be amended?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Mr. Mitter, you know very well that we have on the agenda paper, 959 amendments, and these motions had to be arranged, printed up and circulated with very great rapidity. I have not had the opportunity of going through them all.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I have no objection to the Rai Bahadur amending his motion.

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: The Hon'ble the Finance Member said the other day that the Government would announce in July next, how far they could accept the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee after fully considering the report. I think the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee is to amalgamate certain sub-registry offices. So I think that the provision for new sub-registry offices should be refused by this Council.

I beg to move the motion in the following amended form:—

"That the demand of Rs. 5,000 for new Sub-Registry Offices under the head '9B.' be refused."

Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur who had an identical motion did not press it.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: This sum of Rs. 5,000 hardly provides for five new sub-registry offices. The House will remember that we are constantly pressed to open new offices, and there are places where new offices are really required and they are often a paying concern to Government. I think my friend, the Rai Bahadur, knows that there was a similar provision in the last year's budget, at any rate the whole of that provision was not utilized. No harm is done in having a provision. It may be necessary to open new offices and new offices may bring in more money. Even where new offices do not bring in more money, public convenience may require the opening of new offices. So I trust my friend will not press the motion.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: "That the demand for Rs. 1,50,000 under head '9B.—Temporary Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: I move that the demand of Rs. 1,50,000 under "9B.—District Charges (Transferred)—Temporary Establishment" be reduced by Re. 1.

This motion is brought forward with the intention of bringing the following facts to the notice of the Hon'ble the Minister that the men engaged by the rural sub-registrars as temporary hands sometimes feel very great difficulty in getting their bills pased, and sometimes these bills are even delayed for three or four months. The other point is that the sub-registrars engage some men during the time of heavy work, but as soon as the pressure of work is over, these men remain unemployed. So I beg to suggest that the work of copying may be done by a limited number of men throughout the year, on the same arrangement.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: With regard to the two points mentioned by the mover, if he would send specific instances either to me or to the Secretary to Government, we shall be very pleased to inquire into the matter. Beyond that I cannot promise anything.

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motions were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur, and Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: "That the demand of Rs. 26,000 under '9B.—Registration District Charges—Travelling Allowance' be reduced to Rs. 20,000."

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 26,000 for Travelling Allowance under the head '9B.—Transferred' be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

The following motion standing in the name of Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray was, in the absence of the mover, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 17,35,000 under the head '9B.—Registration—District Charges,' be reduced by Rs. 35,000."

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand of Rs. 17,35,000 under head "9B.—Registration—District Charges" be reduced by Rs. 27,000.

The Retrenchment Committee recommended that certain non-paying offices should be closed down at once. In making that recommendation, they observe at page 16 of their report, that before coming to a decision on this point they made a reference to the Inspector-General of Registration who supplied them with a list of the offices which might be closed at once. On that ground the Retrenchment Committee recommended that a saving could be made of about Rs. 27,000. My proposal relates to that recommendation, and I propose, therefore, that this demand be reduced by Rs. 27,000.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: It is quite true that the Retrenchment Committee did give a list of offices, which apparently was supplied to them by the Inspector-General. The Inspector-General naturally looks at the matter from a revenue point of view, but I am constantly getting representations from the point of view of public convenience. I am not prepared, merely because an office means a loss of Rs. 50 or Rs. 100 to Government, to give an undertaking that these offices should be closed at once, when public convenience demands that the offices should be kept open. The members can take it from me that I shall always consider the matter from the point of view of public convenience as also from the financial point of view. We are examining the whole matter and I cannot make a promise to-day. I would put to my esteemed friend, the mover, how would he like if we were to close at once some of the registration offices round about his zamindary. I trust he will not press his motion.

The motion was put and lost.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 17,35,000 under head '9B.—District Charges' be reduced by Rs. 25,000."

The following motion standing in the name of Maulvi Ekramul Huq was, in the absence of the mover, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 17,35,000 under the head '9.—Registration—District Charges' be reduced by Re. 1."

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the total demand for travelling alowances of Rs. 35,000 under the head '9.—Registration' be reduced by Rs. 8,750."

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand for Rs. 18,37,000 under head "9B.—Registration (Transferred)" be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000.

The Retrenchment Committee have proposed a reduction of Rs. 72,000, but I think that some further reductions may be made, mainly under the head "Superintendence." It is my belief that it is quite possible to retrench expenditure in this department to the extent of one lakh of rupees. In this connection, Sir, I desire to enter my protest against the proposal made by the Hon'ble the Finance Member to enhance registration fees—

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: Is that matter relevant to the motion under discussion? We are not discussing the question of the enhancement of registration fees.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I could not exactly hear what Dr. Banerjea said. It might be my fault or the fault of this Chamber. I do not know how far Dr. Banerjea was relevant.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I was discussing the policy of the department. The Finance Member announced in his speech that he was going to double the registration fees, and I want to protest against that proposal.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: In the first place, the Finance Member did not say any such thing; in the second place the specific proposal here is the reduction of Rs. 1 lakh from the demand for Rs. 18,37,000. We have nothing to do with the raising of registration fees to which my esteemed friend is referring.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Dr. Banerjea, you must not pursue that matter further. You are out of order.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I wanted to criticize the policy of the department with regard to——

Mr. PRESIDENT: Your criticism refers to a matter which has no foundation at all.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: If that statement is withdrawn——

Mr. PRESIDENT: There can be no question of withdrawing a statement that was not made at all.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: In that case, I formally move the motion.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand for Rs. 18,37,000 under the head "9.—Registration" be reduced by Rs. 70,000.

We thought it was impossible to draw out from any Hon'ble Member or Hon'ble Minister anything definite about any recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee; but to our great surprise I find that the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Registration has said something definite to-day and that is that he is not prepared to reduce the number of Sub-Registry Offices as suggested by the Committee.

As regards the point raised by Dr. Banerjea I do not want to go into it, as it is not before the Council. But may I request the Hon'ble the Minister to see that as long as he is in charge of the department the registration fees be not raised at all?

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 18,37,000 under head '9.—Registration' be reduced by Rs. 32,400."

Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: I move that the demand for Rs. 18,37,000 under head "9.—Registration" be reduced by Rs. 20,000.

I beg to draw the attention of the House to the fact as to how the expenditure of this department enormously increased only last year. The average actuals from 1919-20 to 1921-22 were Rs. 15 lakhs only. In the last year, a provision to the amount of Rs. 17 lakhs and 71 thousand was made against the actual of Rs. 15 lakhs and 64 thousand of 1921-22. A further supplementary grant to the amount of one lakh and 60 thousand was granted during the last August session. The revised estimate of this year has been fixed at Rs. 17 lakhs. The defect of the last supplementary budgets of July and August were that expenditure was increased in expectation of revenue which should not have been done in a public budget. This over-estimation has embarrassed our position.

As this is the commercial department of the Government, it might have been well for the authorities not to sanction increase of expenditure without corresponding increase in the revenue side. Moreover, was the increase sanctioned necessary? I think it is only the spirit of sympathy which has led to the expansion of the department and to its over-staffed arrangement. The department has one Inspector-General and one personal assistant to help him. The post of the Inspector-General is costing us Rs. 16,200 and five gazetted officers, Rs. 24,420, besides their leave allowance. This is the central arrangement or rather the supervising staff. Besides these we have 27 district sub-registrars, one for each district, and 420 sub-registrars, 8 *ex officio* sub-registrars in special areas, with a troop of probationers. I do not like to go into details of the district charges. Admitting that the district officers are necessary and we cannot dismiss them without sacrificing efficiency, it must be clear that

the central supervising staff is unnecessary or rather their posts are sinecures, consequently charges for them to the public account are unjustifiable.

I quite agree with the report of the Retrenchment Committee that the post of the Inspector-General is a superfluous one. As a member of the Council of State he stays in Delhi for over five months in a year. In his absence the work is carried on by his personal assistant. The Commissioner of Excise, as has been suggested, can also act as the Inspector-General, because the main work he has to do is to properly guide the department with strong common sense. Of course, in details, he should be assisted by a personal assistant and in this, I think a man who has served the department faithfully for a long time in this department and therefore knows all the details will be a better person than an outsider. Any district sub-registrar of a good reputation may be able to do the work of a personal assistant. If this arrangement be made, a saving to the amount of Rs. 16,200 under head Inspector-General of Registration and Rs. 10,200 under head personal assistant, or a total of Rs. 26,400, can be saved. The average pay of a district sub-registrar, grade I, is Rs. 250 and less. The average pay of the registrar of Calcutta is Rs. 400. The post of the personal assistant must be the prized post among the district sub-registrars and therefore Rs. 500 a month will be enough. Calculating on this basis, a saving of Rs. 2,000 can be made out of Rs. 26,400 with a provision of Rs. 400 for the personal assistant. This economy can be safely effected without sacrificing efficiency. I do not like to reduce the number of the district registrars or sub-registrars. I also propose that the two inspectors of registration offices be retained, if necessary. The curtailment which I have proposed, if conceded, will enable us to make a saving to the amount of Rs. 20,000 and in doing this it is also to be noted we are not reducing the staff but merely transferring the officers to other departments to which they originally belonged.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I beg to submit that I had a mind to discuss the policy of the Registration Department and to record my emphatic protest against the proposed increase in registration fees. If I am not allowed to discuss this question at this stage, then I do not want to press my resolution.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: The question of the increase of registration fees is not before the House, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Kishori Babu, that is not the matter before the House at all. It may arise in course of discussion, but you cannot make a speech upon it now.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: In that case, Sir, I beg to withdraw my motion.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand under the head '9.—Registration' for items other than travelling be reduced by Re. 1."

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I beg to oppose these amendments. It should be clearly understood that Government makes a profit out of these registration fees. Sir, the people want registration offices nearer their homes in large numbers. They do not demand the abolition of registration offices. Besides, the demand for the abolition of the post of special Inspector of Registration Offices and of other officers of other departments is not general, being only the request of a few members of the Council. Let the Government clearly understand that and know there is no mandate for the abolition of any post from this Council, let it consider the matter impartially and not as a mandate from this Council.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: Dealing first with amendment 231 standing in the name of Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea I confess I find some difficulty in dealing with it. Dr. Banerjea suggests that there should be a cut of one lakh; I expected from the learned doctor some indication as to how he arrived at this figure of one lakh. Beyond stating that the Retrenchment Committee suggested a cut of Rs. 72,660, and that his opinion is that it ought to be larger, and therefore it should be one lakh; he has given no materials. I have not heard yet how he arrives at one lakh. But perhaps I was expecting too much. During my short experience of him in this Council, I find he seldom likes to deal with facts. His idealism always carries him away from such things as facts. He prefers to be in cloud-land. However, as Dr. Banerjea has not vouchsafed to us any details as to how he has arrived at this figure, and as the House has already dealt with various specific questions which go to make up Rs. 72,660 of the Retrenchment Committee, I do not think I need take him very seriously, and therefore, firstly, because I find it difficult in understanding what he means, and secondly, because we have already dealt with Rs. 72,660, I do not propose to deal with this one lakh any more. There is another point. Dr. Banerjea has said that my esteemed friend, the Hon'ble the Finance Member, has said in this House that Government decided. I do not know whether Government or the Finance Department—to double the registration fees.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I did not use the word "decided."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: It is perfectly true, at any rate, that the Retrenchment Committee suggested doubling these registration fees. It is also perfectly true that my esteemed friend, the Finance

Member, said this, and I am obliged to Dr. Banerjea for handing over the speech to me. He said—"Our financial position would further be improved if the Committee's recommendation in favour of the enhancement of registration fees were adopted, and as Finance Member I am anxiously waiting action in this matter by the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Registration Department." I put it to Dr. Banerjea how does this question become relevant here; he wants a cut of one lakh; what justification has he to take up the time of the Council on an irrelevant matter like this; this may be a very important question; but the standpoint is, is it before the House or not? As it is not before the House, I think a member of the position of Dr. Banerjea ought to have known better and should not have brought it before the House. Since the matter has been brought before the Council and since I have been challenged as to what my view is, with your leave, Sir, I would like to say that this is a matter about which I do not like to make any statement. It is a matter which must be discussed in the Government. Beyond that I cannot say anything. I would not have said anything but for the irrelevant way in which the matter was sought to be brought forward

My esteemed friend Mr Dutt wants to reduce the total demand by Rs. 70,000 He also has not dealt with details as to how this Rs. 70,000 is made up He has dealt with certain specific cuts in the earlier part of the debate, and perhaps for that reason he did not go into details He has made a statement which is not quite accurate. He has ascribed to me that on one point I have been very definite. Although all members of the Government have stated that we have not come to any decision on the Retrenchment Committee's report, Mr Dutt has ascribed to me that I have made a definite statement, that I am not going to close any of the registration offices referred to in the Retrenchment Committee's report. I would remind him that I have said nothing of the kind. What I said is this: that merely because the Retrenchment Committee suggested this, I am not necessarily going to accept the suggestion. I shall give every weight to its recommendations, but I must also consider the aspect of public convenience as well as of financial economy. The Retrenchment Committee dealt with the question of financial economy alone, but did not consider public convenience; indeed it was not in their province to do so; I am going to consider that aspect also. Therefore, my friend was slightly inaccurate——

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: When he said that he was not, I thought he would not——

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: If he had listened to me more carefully he would not have misunderstood me. That disposes of Mr. Dutt's amendment.

Shah Syed Emdadul Haq has withdrawn his amendment

As regards the amendment of Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Roy Bahadur, the major portion of his amendment deals with the question of the salary of the Inspector-General and his staff. The House has already decided that question and I am not going into it again. He referred also to the question of income; that also has already been dealt with, so I need not repeat it. I oppose all these amendments unless they are withdrawn.

The motions standing in the names of Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta and Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Roy Bahadur were then put and lost.

The original demand that a sum of Rs. 18,37,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "9.—Registration" was then put and agreed to.

15.—IRRIGATION—OTHER REVENUE EXPENDITURE FINANCED FROM ORDINARY REVENUES.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 21,01,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "15.—Irrigation—Other Revenue expenditure, financed from Ordinary Revenues."

This head is divided into minor heads 15A (*a*) and (*b*) 15B (*a*) and (*b*). 15A (*a*) is the expense of upkeep of the Eden Canal only, and amounts to Rs. 33,000 of which Rs. 32,000 is voted.

This canal is purely a service canal and not a commercial undertaking. It was constructed to provide drinking water and is also used for Irrigation.

As there are no headworks, the cold weather supply is obtained by damming the Damodar at Jujuty with sand.

Owing to the supply of water not being possible to guarantee, the irrigation rate has been fixed at Re. 1-8-0 per acre. The question whether this rate is adequate has been raised, and is under consideration.

Head 15A (*b*), provides funds for inquiring into a minor Irrigation Scheme called the Dolong Irrigation Scheme for the control of the Dolong river, which is one of the tributaries of the Suburnarekha in the Midnapore district.

Head 15B (*a*) includes the Orissa Coast Canal Nadia Rivers, Gaighatta and Buxi Khal, Mograhat and other navigable channels and all embankments and drainage works.

The Orissa Coast Canal serves the purpose of both navigation and drainage.

It was constructed before the Bengal-Nagpur Railway and was used very extensively by steamers and ordinary boat traffic till the Bengal-Nagpur Railway was opened. Since then the steamer traffic has ceased

and the canal is only used by boats. The principal place of importance on it is Contai, in Midnapore district.

The tollage was reduced in 1906 and the question of raising it has been taken up and tolls will shortly be raised.

Nadia Rivers includes the Faracca Channel the Bhagirathi, Bhairab, Jalangi, Mathabhanga and a portion of the Hooghly.

These rivers are kept open for navigation, chiefly by boats, but since the opening of the Eastern Bengal Railway the tollage has fallen off considerably, and what was a paying concern is now a non-paying one. The question of giving up all maintenance work here that is not necessary for the safety of the rivers is being gone into now, but till it has been investigated properly we cannot give it up or we may find ourselves in a still worse position.

Gaighatta Buxi khal joins the Damodar to the Rupnarain and is used for navigation. The tolls have been farmed out at Rs. 4,700 per year, and this is all net gain.

Mograhat is a big drainage scheme, as is well known, which has brought an area of 294 square miles under cultivation which was not possible to cultivate before. Under this head is also included the upkeep of embankments and drainage works and the conservancy of all the main rivers in Bengal.

Head 15B (*b*) is for miscellaneous expenditure.

The last item under 15 is Rs. 10,47,000 which is the total working expenses of canals, etc., under Revenue head XIII

This head includes—

XIII A Midnapore Canal.

XIII B Calcutta and Eastern Canals, Madaripur Bhil route, Hijli Tidal Canal, Recoveries on account of *Cowley* and *Burdwan* dredgers.

The Midnapore Canal is for Irrigation and Navigation. The net revenue from this after deducting expenses is Rs. 59,000, but after the tollage and Irrigation rates are increased, this is expected to give better returns.

The Calcutta and Eastern Canals are at present the only route from Calcutta to the Sunderbans, and also serve as a drain. These Canals have to bear the cost of the new bridges over Tolly's Nullah, etc. They are not paying at present.

The Madaripur Bhil Route provides a straighter route for the Calcutta to Eastern Bengal traffic and pays 4·7 per cent. (last five years' average) on the capital invested.

The Hijli Tidal Canal is the link between the Hooghly and the Orissa Coast Canal.

In all the above canals the question of raising the tollage is being gone into.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Kumar Sahib, you may move your three motions together.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: The first motion stands on a different footing I wish it to be taken singly.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Very well.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I move that the demand for Rs. 32,000 under the head "15-1A (*a*) Irrigation works" be refused.

I did not think that the head of "Irrigation" would come up for discussion to-day. I have not got the papers. So I am not in a position to discuss it as thoroughly as I wished. Item No. 237 refers to the Eden Canal in the district of Burdwan. Looking at the work of the Irrigation Department, it would seem that it is proving almost a loss to Government. This canal is almost entirely in the district of Burdwan and can be safely made over to the District Board of Burdwan. I am sure they would be able to manage it much more economically than Government. The Board have already got a big engineering establishment and they can carry on the collection work through their existing revenue establishment.

As I have said, Sir, I do not want to press the amendment I only wish to hear the views of the Hon'ble Member in charge so that the proposal may be examined and inquiries made of the District Board of Burdwan whether they can take it up.

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: I rise to oppose the motion. Sir, the knowledge of geography of some of the members of this Council is very nice. The Eden Canal is situated within the districts of Howrah and Hooghly, and to ask the District Board of Burdwan to take up its management is indeed beautiful.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: Sir, I rise to a point of order. Is the discussion of a motion permissible after it has been withdrawn?

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I withdraw the motion, Sir

Mr. PRESIDENT: Kumar Sahib, if you apply for leave to withdraw a motion, I put it at once without any further discussion; but if you formally move it, the motion is supposed to be under discussion until you get a reply. Nitya Dhon Babu is quite in order in discussing it.

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: Sir, this canal is absolutely necessary for supplying drinking water to the district of Howrah which stands fourth in the list of districts suffering from the absence of good drinking water, and I am astonished to hear that notwithstanding the

present financial position of several district boards, my friend the Kumar Sahib suggests that the District Board of Burdwan should take it over rather than it should continue to be under Government control. This sort of sympathy should have come from my friend after he has set an example in the district from which he himself comes.

I strongly oppose the motion. It is absolutely necessary that the control of the canal should continue with Government. Besides, supposing that the district board has got an engineering establishment it is doubtful whether they have the requisite knowledge in the matter of canals. I also doubt whether they have any provision for the maintenance of an expert engineering establishment.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I strongly oppose the motion. The district boards have got no money and they cannot take up the charge of maintaining the canal from Government.

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: I beg to oppose the amendment Sir, the district of Howrah stands fourth in the mortality list due to stomach diseases for want of good drinking water, and the Kumar Sahib wants to deprive further this district. I do not know how the district board can take it up. They are bankrupt, and if we are to depend upon it for drinking water, mortality in Howrah will go on increasing

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: If my friend, the Kumar Sahib, had taken the tip from me when I asked him not to bring this matter up at the time of the budget discussion, all this useless debate would have been avoided, and he also would not have been misunderstood in the way he seems to have been. I do not think the Kumar Sahib's intention is to do away with the Eden Canal but it certainly seems to be so on paper, when he wants that the demand for Rs. 32,000 under Irrigation works should be refused. What however he really wants is that the working of the Canal should be handed over to the District Board of Burdwan. Regarding this transfer, I think, it is the business of the Chairman of the district board, who is a member of this Council, to come forward and say why it is not possible for the board to maintain the canal. But he is not here; he is perhaps lurking somewhere about and hiding in the lobby.

I must on behalf of Government oppose the motion simply on the ground that in December, 1881, Sir Ashley Eden's Government ordered the construction of the Eden Canal to mitigate the distress that then prevailed for want of drinking water. For 43 years this canal has provided water for drinking and also for irrigation for 35 years which is otherwise impossible to obtain. The proposal to refuse the whole cost would mean that all the work would come to an end. If the district board happen to have a district engineer on their staff, it does not follow that he

would be trained enough to know of canals or to judge of actual designs for irrigation schemes, and what we, as a Government, have got to see is whether it is wise at the present moment to hand over the management of the canal to the district board. I am of opinion that until the district board itself comes up with proposals before Government for consideration, Government cannot consider the scheme. So I must oppose it on behalf of Government, unless it is withdrawn.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till 3 P M on Monday, the 19th March, 1923, at the Town Hall, Calcutta

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Monday, the 19th March, 1923, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President in the Chair, the four Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council, the three Hon'ble Ministers, and 99 nominated and elected members.

The Budget for the year 1923-24.

Demands for Grants.

15.—IRRIGATION—OTHER REVENUE EXPENDITURE FINANCED FROM ORDINARY REVENUES.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I move that the demands for Rs. 10,01,000 under the head "15-2B—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works" be reduced by Rs. 69,000.

Permit me to submit at once that I have brought forward this amendment simply with a view to discuss the principles which control the expenses under this item of the Budget. I do not intend to cut down a single pie and neither do I wish to give rise to the stomach troubles of my friend Rai Fanindralal De Bahadur who is unfortunately absent to-day. Sir, the establishment charges under this head—I mean the cost incurred for salaries of the officers employed for work under this head—amount to well over Rs. 4 lakhs, while in actual work we spend about Rs. 8 lakhs. But the beauty is that almost the whole of the work is done under a contract system. So practically for supervision alone we have to maintain the whole establishment. Whether this huge establishment is commensurate with the actual work done is a matter for serious consideration by the Government. I got myself elected to the Irrigation Standing Committee with a view to examine this question more minutely, and my personal conviction is that we employ in this department a large staff which is absolutely unnecessary and that the tendency of extravagance, to spend

more and more on this account, is steadily on the increase. This would be apparent from the figures that I shall now place before the House:—

Year.	Actual work	Establishment	Per cent
	Rs.	Rs.	
1919-20	12,93,000	2,80,000	21·6
1920-21	10,85,000	2,72,000	25
1921-22 .. .	10,01,000	3,36,000	33·5
1922-23	8,10,000	4,73,000	58·4

So within the last four years the proportion has jumped from 21·6 to 58·4 per cent. and while actual work decreases the establishment increases. I leave the matter here for the House to draw its own conclusion.

Now I come to the actual work. This item covers a large number of miscellaneous works, including sanitary drainage works, agricultural projects, anti-malarial drainage schemes, and the maintenance of a number of small navigation canals and waterways. I referred to them in some detail in dealing with this head during the budget discussion last year. I am sorry to say that during the whole course of a year, the Government did not even think fit to examine the suggestions then made. As a member of the Irrigation Standing Committee I personally brought a few facts to the notice of the Hon'ble Member. He was undoubtedly very sympathetic and overwhelmed me with assurances, but those vocal assurances apart, I have not been assured by anything being done. I will cite only two instances: first, the mysterious thing known as the Bhagirathi observations. We are spending about Rs. 10,000 annually over this matter. Some experts had suggested years ago that the state of the river Bhagirathi should be observed at different places and in different seasons of the year with a view to ascertain whether the river could be made navigable for inland steamers either by diverting the flow of the Ganges or by controlling the course of the rivers of the Nadia district. But that idea again was given up some years back. All the same this observation is still going on and nobody can tell me for what earthly purpose. The Hon'ble Member asked the Chief Engineer to inquire. The Chief Engineer undertook the inquiry and appointed a day where he would be able to tell me all about it. But when I went to see him, he could be found nowhere. Now I find the amount has been budgeted again for the next year. Then, Sir, secondly, I pointed out to the Hon'ble Member the huge loss we are incurring in connection with the Nadia rivers. Let me give the statistics:—

Year	Revenue	Expenditure	Loss.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1919-20	14,000	56,000	42,000
1920-21	13,000	72,000	59,000
1921-22	13,000	85,000	72,000

And the most curious thing is that even the cost of the revenue establishment exceeds the tolls realized by it and I further understand that the

rate of tolls is the same as it was twenty years back. Here, too, I was promised an inquiry, but nothing has transpired as yet. Sir, I need not multiply instances. Even in alluding to these I know that I am only crying in the wilderness. But, Sir, as I owe a duty to my colleagues here as their elected representative in the Irrigation Standing Committee, I think I shall be failing in my duty, if I do not place before my colleagues my views regarding the work of this department. I am constrained to say, Sir, that in the matter of irrigation, embankments and waterways, the Government does not seem to have any fixed policy. Let me repeat again what I said last year in this connection "that fantastic schemes have been undertaken without much attention being paid either to their utility or relative importance." But, Sir, I must be fair to the Hon'ble Member in charge. Most of these schemes were undertaken before he came into office and many of the schemes again have been thrust upon the department by the Ministry of Public Health. But it is regrettable that in the matter of new schemes too, the department has followed its "mamuli" method and have taken them up with the characteristic carelessness of its parent department the Public Works Department which some people have very pertinently named the Public Waste Department. Sir, I do not want to pursue this unpleasant subject any further. But I beg to point out that many of the schemes are of purely local interest, e.g., Dacca rivers improvements, bandalling the Ganges at Rampur-Boalia and so on, and my submission in this connection is that as far as possible they should be carried out by the local authorities, for the district boards are very well equipped in the matter of engineers and I make bold to say that the work will be done better and more economically under the more intimate supervision of the district board authorities. And this will have the additional advantage of enabling us to reduce the central establishment. This establishment should be maintained only for the purpose of giving them the superior technical advice they might lack and ask for. And in the matter of granting financial aid, the Central Government should consider the relative importance of the various schemes and call upon the people of the locality to bear a share of the cost as is done in the Public Health Department in the case of local water works, drainage schemes, and medical schools, and so forth. There is only one thing more to which I would also like to refer. This relates to embankments which the Government have to maintain under contract with the landlords of Midnapore. I am rather pained to find that huge reductions have been made in the next year's budget in the estimate expenses connected with these embankments. I know, Sir, the zamindars have a remedy in the law courts and if I remember aright, the matter had once gone up to the High Court and the Government had there fared rather badly. I would, however, ask the Government to be just, fair and considerate and observe the sanctity of the contracts. Sir, this matter was thoroughly examined immediately after the decision in the Mahisadal Raj case I have referred to, and Sir John Cumming, the then Member, had passed definite orders

to maintain these embankments in proper order. This has been done ever since, but I do not know what further advice has led the Government to cut down the budget estimate this year. Surely the Government does not mean to treat those contracts as mere scraps of paper. If the maintenance of these embankments be thought unnecessary it is only meet and proper to allow adequate remission in the amount of revenue paid by the landlords.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand for Rs. 10,54,000 under the head "15—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues" be reduced by Re. 1.

It will be evident from the wording of my motion that I also do not mean to make any reduction and my object is rather to have a discussion on the subject. Sir, it has been said by a great French satirist that speech has been given to man to conceal his thoughts. Whether it is true or not, it is certainly true to some extent that the budget system was devised for the Irrigation Department just to enable it to conceal the various items of expenditure. Every year, Sir, lakhs and lakhs of rupees are budgeted and demanded without disclosing any details whatsoever except perhaps the names of certain canals. The Council is asked to vote blindly without any knowledge of details, big sums of money whenever demanded for major or minor works, productive or unproductive works. No details of receipts are given either from irrigation or navigation works and even from those for which capital accounts are kept and which are principally meant for commercial services. Nowhere the details of working expenses are given and the Council members are left to wonder why schemes labeled productive should yield minus receipts. Much hearty laughter was enjoyed at the expense of the Calcutta University when figures in the University Budget appeared to show drawings from debit-balances. But here you are to look grave and serious and vote as you are demanded to do. Our duty according to the official moral code seems to be not to "reason why" but simply to vote "aye" with the Government.

Mr. PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. E. A. Cotton): Are you discussing the amendment at all? So far we have had a discussion on very general lines. You have said that speech has been given to man to conceal his thoughts and I think you are trying to illustrate that

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: Sir, mine is a general grievance regarding the way in which the Irrigation budget is framed. Ransack the budget as you please, you will nowhere find how much does an Irrigation Circle cost, what is the amount budgeted for pay of officers and establishment, whether charges for tools and plant, supplies and contingencies, are on the increase or not and what particular sums are proposed to be spent for what particular activities, such as, maintenance and repairs, extension and improvements, in connection with each and

every work Truly does the Retrenchment Committee remark "the accounts of the Irrigation Department are notorious for their complexity" and difficulty is experienced in ascertaining facts. And it is to enter an emphatic protest against this system of budgeting Irrigation expenditure that I propose to move my amendment.

There is another observation which I should like to make in connection with expenditure under this head. It will be seen, Sir, on referring to the Irrigation Report for the year 1921-22 that two out of the three principal navigation canals under this head are being worked at an increasing loss to the taxpayer. My friend Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray has shown how the Nadia rivers are a losing concern. I beg to add that the Eden Canal too is occasioning more and more losses to the provincial revenue.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): May I rise to a point of order? Sir, the question of the Eden Canal was discussed on Saturday, and disposed of.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Harendra Babu, the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan reminds me that the question of the Eden Canal was disposed of on Saturday, so you should not discuss it.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: But the establishment charges are included in this item of the demand.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That may be so, but the member had an opportunity on Saturday and he did not avail himself of it. Therefore, in making these remarks on the Eden Canal he is out of order now.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: Sir, I was only referring to it by way of illustration. The loss was Rs. 11,000 in 1919-20, but increased to Rs. 13,358 in 1920-21. It is a source of increasing loss to the taxpayers. Under these circumstances, Government should curtail the working expenses and try to increase the revenue as much as possible under this head. This is all I have got to say on this point.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: The erudite essay that the Kumar Sahib has read to us regarding the working of the Irrigation Department will, I am sure, be considered very carefully by me and Mr. Huntingford and I trust that we may be able to do our duties more to the satisfaction of the Kumar Sahib and his advocates in future. Meanwhile, as regards the actual comments made by him I think they could be boiled down to the following facts. First of all he says that our establishment charges are greater than our actual expenses and that the controlling expenses are not in

proportion to the expenditure of the Department. Then he has given us figures and complains that when we go in for the contract system, it is rather surprising that our charges should be heavy, but where he rather skips over the whole question is that the establishment charges are not incurred mainly for the works that we may take up. The establishment charges are also there to look after the canals and embankments and to see that those canals and embankments are properly maintained. Therefore, the establishment is not there simply to supervise any work that may be given out under contract. It is, therefore, rather misleading to quote these figures in the way that they have been quoted.

Then, he goes on to what he calls the mysterious charges in connection with the Bhagirathi observations. Regarding that, I myself am not always very clear in my mind as to all the details of the Bhagirathi observations. But this much I can say that these observations are essential for giving us all the possible data for all schemes that we may go into in connection with sanitary or drainage projects or for the bandalling of the rivers and so forth. When we come to the question of the Nadia rivers this stands on a somewhat different footing. I promised the Kumar Sahib to have the matter examined and that is being done now with a view to consider whether we should give up the observations of these rivers altogether or to a great extent. But, before we decide either way, we must know beyond doubt as to what would be the right course to pursue; and unless our experts submit their opinion, which we hope we shall get before long, I am not in a position to say one way or the other. In his concluding remarks, the Kumar Sahib has referred to the zamindari embankments in Midnapore, and he has mentioned that the Financial Department have given us less money for their maintenance I agree with him that the Financial Department have treated us very badly in this connection, but even if the Financial Department had given us more money it is doubtful in the first place whether we could have been able to spend very much, not because we could not spend money, but because there are certain embankments regarding which the department is doubtful as to whether they should be maintained. Then, there are other portions of the embankments which are difficult to maintain such as in the Ghatal subdivision what is called the Chetue circuit, is a case in point. There are a number of embankments which the Government are supposed to maintain under contract, but are unable to do so because it would be unwise to do so as they would flood a larger area, than is now flooded owing to some of the breaches being kept open. This is a matter, therefore, on which there are two opinions. Meanwhile, as I say, that although a lesser amount has been budgeted for, it does not follow that we are not maintaining the embankments properly or that we are in any way receding from the orders passed by Sir John Cumming in 1918 to which a reference has been made.

Turning to Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri's observations regarding the irrigation budget, I think his main complaint has been that we do not

give him sufficient details. This, again, is a question which wants looking into. This is a matter which we cannot reply to off-hand without consulting the Financial Department. But I shall have the matter looked into as to whether, in view of the orders, it would be possible to give further details.

These are all the comments which I have to make and I trust that the motions, which have been put forward more with a desire for a general discussion than for pressing them, will, after my reply, be withdrawn.

The motion standing in the name of Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The motion standing in the name of Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri was then put and lost.

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Nalini Nath Roy was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 1,50,000 under the head 'XIIIB.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works for the Dum-Dum Bridge' be refused."

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I shall be very brief and finish in a minute. This demand among others includes the working expenses of the Midnapore Canal and the Madaripur Bhil Route. Now, Sir, I come to the question of tollage in these canals. In the Midnapore Canal, statistics show that the boat traffic is steadily on the increase. But the rate of tollage is remarkably low here. It works out at about 1½ pies per mile per ton while that in the Hijli Canal is 3 pies, and about 9 pies in the Circular Canals. I would therefore suggest that the rates should be revised at once. And I make the same suggestion regarding the rate of tollage in the Madaripur Bhil Route. Sir, on obtaining an assurance from the Government I would beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: My reply is that we are going into the whole question of raising the rates of tolls.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 10,47,000 under the head '15.—Working Expenses' be reduced by Rs. 90,000."

The following motions standing in the name of Maulvi Ekramul Huq were, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 21,01,000 under the head '15.—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues' be reduced by Re. 1 from the provision for Irrigation Works."

"That the demand of Rs. 21,01,000 under the head '15.—Other venue Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues' be reduced by 1 from the provision for Navigation, Embankment and Drainage rks."

Mr. PRESIDENT: The question is that the demand for grant under head "15.—Irrigation—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from linary Revenues" as setttled in Council, be granted.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

16.—CONSTRUCTION OF IRRIGATION, NAVIGATION, EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS CHARGED TO REVENUE.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of RDWAN: I move that a sum of Rs. 12,33,000 be granted for expendi- under the head "16.—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, bankment and Drainage Works charged to Revenue."

Head 16 is the capital account of the following works:—Midnapore ial, Calcutta and Eastern Canals, Madaripur Bhil Route, Hijli Tidal ial, and Dredging the Bidyadhari River, and under this head only ital expenditure is dealt with. In Calcutta and Eastern Canals only 5,000 is provided for finishing the demarcation of Tolly's Nullah. having no boundary line marked out on the ground, we have had our ls encroached upon. This is now being carefully marked out and ndary pillars built.

A sum of Rs. 7¾ lakhs has been provided for completing the widening deepening of the Madaripur Bhil Route. Besides this Rs. 4 lakhs has n provided for dredging the Bidyadhari. This is all I have to say ntroducing this head, but I think, Sir, in view of the motions that e been put forward regarding the reduction of the amount we have ed for the Madaripur Bhil Route, and in view of the fact that very le time is allotted for the discussion of this head—it is only 25 min- s—I think I can considerably reduce the discussion if I were to point at this stage the attitude of Government on motions Nos. 246—248. I anticipate the discussion on this point, namely, the question of the ening and deepening of the Madaripur Bhil Route. Since last year ave myself taken some interest in this question and I asked Mr. Hun- gford to go into the matter. Mr. Huntingford paid a visit to certain tions of the Madaripur Bhil Route and on his return he told me that lid not think that to maintain the Madaripur Bhil Route the only work would have to do would be to widen and deepen, but that such matters getting more water from channels like the Lower Kumar River and er waterways would in time be necessary. In view of that fact we have e into the question as to the minimum amount we could do with regard

to the widening and deepening, for we think that for a time at any rate we should consider whether we should stop this process of widening and deepening or not. I do not find Babu Nalini Nath Roy here, but if Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri would, with your permission, Sir, alter his figure of Rs. 3,75,000 to 4,15,000, which is put down in Babu Nalini Nath Roy's motion for reduction, I would be willing to accept that cut.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand for Rs. 7,75,000 under head "16.—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works" for widening and deepening Madaripur Bhil Route be reduced by Rs. 4,15,000.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The following motion was not put as it was covered by the previous decision of the Council.

Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT: "That the demand of Rs. 7,75,000 which it is proposed to spend for widening and deepening the Madaripur Bhil Canal under the head '15.—Irrigation' be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 4,00,000 for Bidyadhari Spill operations under head "16.—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works" be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000.

The question of the expenses in connection with the excavation of this unfortunate river has been the bone of contention between the Government of Bengal and the Municipal Corporation of Calcutta. Sir, we who love Calcutta somewhat love Bengal more, and we feel, Sir, that for the interest of Calcutta the funds of Bengal are being made to suffer. I had the good fortune to go to the area of this Bidyadhari spill operations and I found at once that the operations were needed. We do not question the necessity of these operations. But the fact remains that they are needed more for Calcutta than Bengal. They are needed for the sewerage operations of Calcutta and unless these operations are undertaken, the sewerage of Calcutta will be blocked. In the circumstances, is it not equitable that the Calcutta Corporation should come out with greater funds? I am extremely sorry to find that the Calcutta Corporation has promised only Rs. 3 lakhs to be paid in the course of three years and that without prejudice, meaning thereby that they intend to fight the matter out if necessary. We in this Council should strengthen the hands of Government by putting on record that the Calcutta Corporation should be made primarily responsible for these operations. I hope the Hon'ble Member will agree with us in this view and force the hands of the Corporation in this matter.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I am surprised to hear what my friend Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta has said. He is otherwise so strong in expressing his opinion and so accurate in his facts, gathered from personal observation and study, that I am surprised that on this occasion he has come forward to speak without knowing what the actual position is. My friend does not know that the Calcutta Corporation is not primarily responsible for the silting up of the Bidyadhari River. There are a good many reasons for the silting up of this river and the Government have much to do with that. That being so, my friend should not say that the Calcutta Corporation should bear the whole burden. It is to be found out as to which has brought about the silting of the Bidyadhari and whether the Corporation is responsible for the same. That is the reason why the Calcutta Corporation has agreed to pay without prejudice. If anybody else be found responsible, it would be unfair to ask the Calcutta Corporation to bear the whole cost.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I think the Council will appreciate in a generous spirit the cut in connection with the Madaripur Bhil Route and I would have been very pleased to accommodate Babu Indu Bhushan Datta regarding his motion for the reduction of the demand, had not this figure meant not simply the dredging of the river Bidyadhari, but also for spending money on the spill area. I ask that this amount be granted by the Council with this assurance that we shall not spend much money over actual dredging operations until we have forced, or rather fought, the Corporation regarding their grant. I hope, therefore, that the amount we now ask for will be granted and that Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta will withdraw his motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motions were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 12,33,000 under the head '16.—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage works' be reduced by Rs. 3,81,000."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the demand of Rs. 12,33,000 under the head '16.—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works' be reduced by Re. 1."

Mr. PRESIDENT: The question is that the demand for grant under "16.—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works charged to Revenue" as settled in Council, be granted.

The motion was put and agreed to.

22.—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT and POLITICAL DEPARTMENTS (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): I move that a sum of Rs. 1,01,91,200 be granted for expenditure under the head "22.—General Administration."

The total demand under this head is Rs. 16 lakhs more than it was last year, but the total amount to be spent is Rs. 11 lakhs more than the last year's estimate and Rs. 7 lakhs more than the revised. This is accounted for by a rise in the Civil Secretariat which is Rs. 5 lakhs more than the revised, and of this Rs. 5 lakhs, Rs. 4½ lakhs is the cost of the coming Council election. General administration is Rs. 2 lakhs more than the revised and Rs. 7 lakhs more than last year's budget. This is entirely accounted for by the operation of the time-scale in the provincial services and by the operation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Officers' Salaries Committee. I may perhaps point out that there is on increase in number in the coming year. I say this because the figures given in the budget are in many cases wrong as to the number of clerks employed. For instance, in my own department—Judicial, Appointment and Political—the number of clerks shown in the current year is 107 as against 115 shown for next year; but as a matter of fact 115 clerks have been employed in my department for the last two years and we do not propose to add a single one. In some cases the rise in number is correct, because the Council itself in the last July session passed certain supplementary grants thereby raising the number. But the Council can take it from me that in this budget we have not provided for the increase of a single clerk in the coming year. All the clerks whose salaries we are asking for now are at the present moment employed under the proper sanction of the Council. This demand covers a considerable number of departments, and in accordance with the usual custom, the Members and Ministers in charge will reply to attacks made regarding their own particular departments. As regards those under me, I should like to say with reference to the staff and household of the Governor, His Excellency, whose desire for economy is well known, has already reduced the band by Rs. 12,000 and bodyguard by Rs. 10,000. On page 49 of the estimates, there is an item "Lump provision for increase of annual maintenance grant" which is shown as non-voted—Rs. 10,000. That, Sir, is an increase to the maintenance grant for the upkeep of the furniture in the various Government Houses. For the last three years it was found impossible to maintain the furniture in the Government Houses on the grant that was sanctioned in 1915, so for the last 3 years the Secretary of State has every year sanctioned a 50 per cent. increase in the maintenance grant. This item was put into the budget, but it was shown as non-voted until the Secretary of State's sanction was received. The Secretary of State's sanction has now been received and, therefore, I would ask the Council to transfer it from non-voted to voted. I have not

increased the total of the demand on this account, because of the retrenchments I mentioned just now—in the band and bodyguard—the first already appears in the budget, but that regarding the bodyguard does not appear in the budget, and that will balance the Rs. 10,000 transferred to the voted head. I would ask the Council to vote the demand I have asked for.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I move—

(*i*) that the demand of Rs. 3,000 for Hill and Dacca Allowance under head "22A.—Staff and Household of the Governor—Private Secretary" be reduced by Rs. 1,545; and

(*ii*) that the demand for Rs. 2,500 for Hill and Dacca Allowance under "22A.—Staff and Household of the Governor—Military Secretary" be reduced by Rs. 1,250.

In pressing these two amendments before the House my main object is to draw attention to the fact that after the annulment of the partition, the promise was given that there should be some sort of temporary residence of the Government at Dacca. For some reason or other the whole thing has now been given up, but a vestige of it has been kept by a small amount in the budget only to make a show that Dacca still gets some sort of consideration from Government. If there is no sincerity underlying it, if there is no intention to give proper attention to the capital of Eastern Bengal, what is the good of doling out a few rupees for this man or that man? It is only to draw attention to this broad fact, only to draw attention to the fact that these are some toys given to you, the East Bengal people, and nothing more, that I gave notice of these motions.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I gather that the object of the mover is to call attention to the alleged neglect of Dacca. Well, Sir, the question has been discussed on various occasions and I think the whole Council are agreed that it is impossible for the Government to move to Dacca in the same way as it used to before. It will be quite impossible for a meeting of the present enlarged Council to be held at Dacca now. His Excellency, however, still spends considerable time at Dacca during the rains and also some time in the cold weather, and I myself and other members of Government have also been to Dacca during the rains. I can assure the Council that Government are fully impressed with the importance of Dacca.

As regards the Secretariat, there is always a Secretary to Government attached to His Excellency while His Excellency is at Dacca, and the needs of Eastern Bengal can be brought to the notice of Government through that Secretary.

The motions were then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 18,500 under the head "22A.—Staff and Household of the

Governor—Military Secretary—Contingencies, Barrackpore Park—Maintenance Charges" be reduced by Rs. 3,500.

The Garden House used to be a charge under Imperial Revenues, but for the last four years it has been made over to Bengal. His Excellency the Governor has been provided with Government Houses at Dacca and Darjeeling besides Calcutta. The Barrackpore Park is rarely utilized for the week-end. The actual expenditure in 1921-22 was only Rs. 1,666. Against this sum the demand next year is estimated at Rs. 18,500. I have only proposed a small reduction of Rs. 3,000. I know the popularity of the park is increasing with the popularity of Barrackpore races. But the sum I have asked the Council to vote ought to be considered considerable, i.e., Rs. 15,000 for the maintenance of the week-end retreat.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I also move my amendment which runs as follows:—

"That the demand for Rs. 18,500 for Barrackpore Park maintenance under the head '22.—General Administration—Staff and Household of Governor—Military Secretary' be reduced by Rs. 5."

My main object is only to discuss the policy. It is pointed out that this is the only place where they play golf. At the same time it is not within the Calcutta municipality—it has not been included within Calcutta in spite of its large expansion, and why for the sake of the people of Barrackpore municipality the whole finance of Bengal should be taxed, it really passes my comprehension. Then again, apart from the arguments advanced by my friend, Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur, there is another view of the thing. It is said that for the prestige of the Governor this park should be maintained. There are several other Government Houses and institutions and it will not matter much if this park is given up. At the same time there may be people who are interested in it, but for aught we know, we hardly think that the maintenance charges of this park should be borne from the provincial finances. It may be given to some local magnate who will be too glad to keep it up.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: As far as I can make out the objection to this is mainly that there happen to be races and also a Golf Club at Barrackpore. I can assure the House that this demand has nothing to do with either. Dr. Dutt is correct in saying that until the year 1921 the Government of India paid for the upkeep of the Barrackpore Government House, but he is incorrect in saying that the actual expenditure in 1921-22 was only Rs. 1,666. In that year the cost of the upkeep was debited to the Public Works Department budget and it appeared there, and it was only in the next year that it was thought more suitable to include this item in this budget. The cost of the upkeep of the Barrackpore Government House and the gardens has been the same for the last 10 years. The actual expenditure covers the occupier's share of the taxes, the lighting charges, the repairs of *chicks*

and matting, the salary of the household servants and *malis* for the maintenance of the gardens and the maintenance of the furniture. Last year the total was Rs. 21,450. This year we have reduced this amount owing to the financial stress and we propose to do with Rs. 18,500. It has been said that the Barrackpore Park is little used. That, Sir, I think, His Excellency would certainly repudiate. Since I have known Barrackpore, it has been very much used not only by the Viceroy when he was down here, but also by every Governor because it is more than a week-end retreat. It is a refuge for a very hard-worked Governor who can get away to this place for fresh air during the stress of a very strenuous cold weather and free from his Secretaries, Ministers, and everybody else.

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: Is it not a fact that this park is open to the public as well?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The public, I believe, have certain rights over the park.

My point is that this expenditure is not merely for the upkeep of the park but for the maintenance of the furniture, the upkeep of the gardens, the salaries of the *malis*, and taxes and lighting charges, etc. I think the House will agree that we certainly have been studying economy in cutting this down from Rs. 21,000 to Rs. 18,500.

The motion standing in the name of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The motion standing in the name of Babu Annada Charan Dutta was then put and lost.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 30,000 for renewal of furniture and carpets under the head "22.—General Administration—Staff and Household of the Governor—Military Secretary" be reduced by Rs. 15,000.

My amendment raises a small question. I find last year the amount budgeted under this head was Rs. 50,000. This year, no doubt, there is a little retrenchment of Rs. 20,000. At the same time the old carpets and furniture must have fetched a certain amount of money and I know of people who would very gladly pay fancy prices for anything coming out of Government House for keeping them as relics. My idea is that if there be an auction of these things, it will bring in a bigger sum than the Government hope for and quite sufficient to cover the price of the new ones. I do not find anything on the receipts side for the old carpets. Unless that is explained I think that the Council should not grant this amount.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 30,000 for furniture and carpets under the head "22A." be reduced by Rs. 3,000.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I think that this motion of Babu Annada Charan Dutta is brought under a misapprehension. The furniture in all Government Houses forms a block and it has to be maintained and renewed. It does not last for ever. In 1915 after a very careful inquiry by Mr. Hammond, now in Bihar, Government fixed a certain capital value for the furniture of each Government House and they fixed also a certain percentage of that capital value for the maintenance charge. That percentage was 7½. Out of that 2½ per cent. may be spent annually on small renewals, and 5 per cent. is accumulated until the new Governor comes in when he may spend it any time during the course of his five years on the bigger renewals; the idea being that each Governor likes to make certain alterations in the furniture according to his own taste. Therefore 5 per cent. of the annual 7½ per cent. is accumulated for him. The full amount of this 5 per cent. in five years amounts to Rs. 91,000. Every Governor who comes in, after his predecessor has been there for full five years, has at his credit Rs. 91,000 which he may spend any time during his five years. As a matter of fact it is mostly spent in the first two years. Last year out of this Rs. 91,000 we provided Rs. 50,000; that however was not all spent. This year, at the instance of the Military Secretary, we have provided Rs. 30,000. If that is all spent next year there will be a small sum left over, but the point is that the Governor cannot exceed his Rs. 91,000. It is not a fresh grant. It is the accumulated saving of his predecessor. Therefore, it does not matter to the province whether he spends it in one year or in five years. I would therefore ask the hon'ble members to withdraw their motions.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: After this explanation, I beg leave to withdraw my motion also.

The motions were then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 4,47,000 under head "22.—General Administration—Staff and Household of the Governor" be reduced by Rs. 8,000 being the provision for the re-grant of savings in the contingencies of the Military Secretary.

On referring to the detailed budget book we find that a sum of Rs. 8,000 has been budgeted under the heading "Re-grant of Savings" for the next year, but no amount was actually spent under this heading in the year 1921-22, and provision was also not made in the budget for the year now closing. Under the circumstances I do not understand why there should be any necessity for placing any amount for expenditure under this head for the next year. It is probable that there would be some saving under some head during the current year, e.g., contingent or other charges. If this is so, why has not this amount been put under that head? A word of explanation is certainly necessary. I hope the Hon'ble Member in charge will enlighten me on this point.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I am glad to give the explanation. There are certain contingent grants administered by the Military Secretary—the contract allowance of His Excellency, the furniture maintenance grant and the band contingent grant—the unspent balances of which, under an arrangement, in accordance with the terms of these allotments, do not lapse at the end of the year. Therefore, the Military Secretary is entitled to spend in the following year the unspent balances of contingent grant of last year under these heads; but he cannot spend that money unless there is some provision for it in the budget. Therefore, we do every year make a provision of Rs. 8,000 in the budget to cover this. If his unspent balances are less than Rs. 8,000, he cannot spend more than the amount of the unspent balance. Last year it is perfectly true that there were no grants under this head, but if the member would look to the head—Band Establishment—he will find the re-grant of savings of Rs. 8,000 last year. It was put under the head—Band—last year and there was a motion for reduction. Sir Henry Wheeler explained the case and stated that it was not rightly placed under the head—Band—although the Band contingency was one of those funds. This year we have put it in the Military Secretary's budget.

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: After this explanation, I beg to withdraw my motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand for Rs. 680 for Hill and Dacca Allowances under '22A.—Staff and Household of the Governor—Surgeon to His Excellency the Governor' be reduced by Rs. 340."

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I desire at the outset to make it perfectly clear that in bringing forward my motion, it is not my intention to show the slightest disrespect to His Excellency the Governor or to cause him the slightest degree of inconvenience. I move it only on the ground of retrenchment. When a proposal for reducing the grant under this sub-head was moved last year, Sir Henry Wheeler pointed out that in the old days of the Lieutenant-Governors, there was no band in Government House and that the Governor of Bengal got a band because it was felt that he should not be placed in any respect on a lower social level of equipment and dignity than the Governors of Madras and Bombay. Now, in my humble opinion, a band is not such an important adjunct to the office of the Governor that its loss would in any way affect his dignity. Sir Henry Wheeler defended the grant on the ground that for the carrying out of official functions, ceremonies and entertainments at Government House on a proper scale, a band was a necessary

corollary. But may I ask whether the band at Fort William is not available on such occasions? If so, at a time of financial stress like the present, a saving may be effected by avoiding this expenditure. If the band at Fort William is not available, I will not press my motion. I leave the matter entirely in the hands of His Excellency who is himself an ardent advocate of retrenchment. With these words I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 82,000 on account of Band Establishment under head '22—General Administration (Detailed Account No. 22A, Staff and Household of the Governor)' be refused."

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 78,000 under the head '22A.—Band Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 2,400."

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand for Rs. 1,21,000 on account of the Bodyguard Establishment under the head "22—General Administration (Detailed Account No. 22—Staff and Household of the Governor)" be refused.

There is a material as well as a moral side to this question. On the material side, it appears to me that with the advent of motor cars bodyguards have become quite useless. If we look at the moral side of the question, we find that bodyguards have become out of date in these days of advanced ideals. If rulers are able to win the affections of the ruled, the need for guarding their persons disappears. As a matter of fact, bodyguards are called out only on a few ceremonial occasions. But I admit that it would be better to make use of an honorary staff in place of the existing salaried establishment on these occasions. I think it can be arranged without any difficulty that the Calcutta University Corps should serve as His Excellency's bodyguard on ceremonial occasions. The members of this Corps are educated young men of the highest character, and they come from very respectable families in Bengal. It is impossible to think of a better guard of honour for His Excellency. Further, the acceptance of my proposal will not only cause a saving in public expenditure but will result in establishing a relationship of goodwill and intimacy between the head of the province and the best elements of the Indian population. This is a suggestion which I make in all seriousness for the consideration of His Excellency. I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: I move that the demand for Rs. 4,47,000 under the head "22.—General Administration—Staff and

Household of the Governor" be reduced by Rs. 10,000 from the provision for the Bodyguard Establishment.

I do not look at this question from the material as well as from the moral point of view, as Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea has suggested, but I should like to have an explanation from the Hon'ble Member with regard to the total expenditure under this head. In the revised budget estimates no details are given. We find from the budget that actuals under this head——

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I rise to a point of order. Is a member of this Council when withdrawing his motion entitled to make a long speech on the merits of the question and after the member has withdrawn is another member entitled to make a long speech?

Mr. PRESIDENT: You will understand that it is extremely difficult for the Chair to know whether a member is going to withdraw or not. It does seem to me that if members of the Council come with the intention of withdrawing their amendments, they should not prepare long speeches and read them out and withdraw in the end. We have got a very limited time for each of the heads and if members are going to withdraw their motions after making long speeches, it simply means that we shall not get to those amendments which may be more important.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: May I explain that my object was not to press the matter but merely to make a suggestion?

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: I do not understand from the budget under what head this amount has been placed. We find that for the establishment the actual expenditure in 1921-22 was Rs. 26,103, whereas the budget estimate for the current year 1922-23 was Rs. 80,000. Under the head of contingencies, the actuals of 1921-22 were Rs. 68,601, whereas it was only Rs. 40,000 in the current year 1922-23. The total for 1921-22 came up to Rs. 95,424 and in the budget estimate for 1922-23 it was Rs. 1,20,000; in the revised estimate also it was Rs. 1,21,000 and the same amount has been budgeted for the next year, but no details have been given. I do not know whether the increase has been under the head of establishment or contingencies this year. Evidently it is an increase under the head of establishment. In this connection I would like to give one instance. We find passing along the road two mounted *sowars* posted at the northern gate of Government House. This is a thing which we never saw before. Even when the Viceroy used to live in this House, no *sowars* were posted at any of the gates. I do not know whether it is at all convenient for these people—equestrian statues I might call them—to be posted there. It is not also known whether it

is contemplated to post similar *sowars* at the five other gates of Government House. I think that there is no use for this expenditure which is waste of public money and which can be saved by doing away with these people. If under the head of establishment we pay this amount, I think that it will effect a good saving if my motion is accepted. With these observations I press this motion for acceptance.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: As far as I can gather the member's object in pressing this motion is to obtain an explanation as to why the columns under the head Bodyguard Establishment in the budget estimates for 1923-24 are blank. I have no explanation to give. It is only the Accountant-General who can give that explanation. I imagine that it is due to the carelessness of his office. There is no deep meaning in it. I cannot give the exact figures now. I can give them to the member at any time he can come to my office, but speaking generally the estimates for establishment and contingencies are based on those of last year. The rise the member referred to since 1921-22 in both cases is due partly to the rise in the pay of the Indian Army and partly to the fact that as soon as this province came under the Reforms, the Government of India have been shoving off expenditure from their estimates on to ours. Whereas clothing, fodder and various other things used to be paid for out of the military estimates, the Military Department, in their desire for economy, are shoving on to the civil estimates all they possibly can: that is the reason why there has been a large increase, but as I stated in making this demand the actual cost of the bodyguard during the coming year will be reduced by the amount that the member has mentioned in his motion. I have set that off against the Rs. 10,000 which I have also referred to and which I wanted the House to transfer from non-voted to voted. I would ask the member to withdraw his motion.

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 4,47,200 under the head '22A.—Staff and Household of the Governor' be reduced by Rs. 7,200."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 44,266 under the head "22C.—Tour Expenses for Special Trains and Haulage of Saloons" be reduced by Rs. 8,266.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The actual voted amount under this head is only a little more than the actuals of 1921-22. It is

larger than the budget estimate of last year, but the House will see that it is impossible that the Governor should do the same amount of touring every year. The haulage of the saloons depends entirely upon the number of tours which His Excellency makes during the course of the year. I am sure that it would not be the wish of the Council in any way to restrict the number of those tours. As regards the non-voted amount of Rs. 60,000, there is an explanation in the Grey Book. If the member will look there, he will find that it is provided for a saloon on the broad gauge. That is the explanation of the particular item.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur: Before I ask leave of this Council to withdraw my motion, I beg to offer one suggestion. Cannot our Governor play the part of King Harunal Raschid of Baghdad and travel *incognito* throughout the province for ascertaining the views and conditions of the people? That would go a great way towards retrenchment and reduce this large item of expenditure on tours! With these words I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 94,000 under the head '22C.—Tour Expenses' be reduced by Re. 1 only.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand for Rs. 10,000 for travelling allowance under head "22.—General Administration (Detailed Account No. 22D.—Executive Council)" be reduced by Rs. 5,000.

I urge this reduction because the amount of Rs. 10,000 will not be needed if the number of Members of the Executive Council is reduced. The number of Members of the Executive Council and their salaries have been placed beyond our reach, but we have the power to cut down their travelling allowance. In exercising this power, I desire to express the view that the number of members be reduced by one half as has been suggested by the Retrenchment Committee.

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Fanindralal De Bahadur was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 10,000 for travelling allowance under the head '22D.—Executive Council' be reduced by Rs. 2,000."

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea will hardly expect me to discuss on this motion the question of the number of Members of Council. It is a matter which is not within the competence of this Government and it is impossible for this Government to make any statement whatsoever on the subject. As he has raised no

other question, I will not go into the details of this particular item beyond saying that it is considerably less than the actuals of last year.

The motion standing in the name of Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea was then put and lost.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand for Rs. 10,000 for miscellaneous expenses under head "22.—General Administration (Detailed Account No. 22D.—Executive Council)" be reduced by Rs. 5,000.

The principle underlying this motion is identical with that of my previous motion and I need not add any words to what I said on the last occasion.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 10,000 under "22D.—Executive Council—Supplies for Services and Contingencies—Miscellaneous" be reduced to Rs. 7,000.

My proposal of reduction has reference to the revised estimate for contingencies for the current year, which is Rs. 7,000, a sum large enough for a small office like that provided for the Hon'ble the Executive Council Members. These contingencies creep up like anything if allowed to drift. There is no eartly reason why this item should be allowed to exceed the estimate of the current year. I hope that the Council will disallow all these attemps to overestimate requirements under heads like "Miscellaneous and Contingencies" and then the indiscriminate rush to exhaust the last pice of the grant at the end of the year before 31st March.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: With reference to the motion of Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea, as his object is the same, my reply is the same.

With regard to Dr. Haridhan Dutt's motion the reason why Rs. 10,000 is provided this year as against Rs. 7,000 last year is that these charges are not constant, and therefore, the Finance Department took an average of three years for the budget estimate of next year. I can give the Doctor the actual details of expenditure up to the present day of this year if he cares to have them, but I can assure him and the House that this, like all other contingent charges in the budget, is under examination by the Finance Department and they will cut down this provision as much as possible.

The motions were then put and lost.

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Fanindralal De Bahadur was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 10,000 for Miscellaneous Supplies and Contingencies under the head '22D.—Executive Council' be reduced by Rs. 2,000."

The following motions were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand for Rs. 24,000 under the head '22D.—Executive Council' be reduced by Rs. 4,000."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the demand under '22D.—Executive Council' items other than travelling allowances be reduced by Re. 1."

Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 24,000 under the head '22.—Executive Council' be reduced by Re. 1 only."

Mr. PRESIDENT: Kishori Babu, the second portion of your motion is out of order as you have not mentioned a specific sum.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: Sir, I am willing to withdraw that portion, and I hope I may be allowed to do so.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: May I rise to a point of order? We have not yet disposed of the Shah Sahib's motion.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I thought that the Shah Sahib had withdrawn it. However, I am much obliged to you, Mr. Stephenson, for pointing this out.

At this stage, Shah Syed Emdadul Haq asked for leave to withdraw his motion.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 24,000 under the head '22D.—Executive Council' be reduced by Rs. 2,600."

Mr. PRESIDENT: How do we stand now? Kishori Babu, do you wish to withdraw portion (*ii*) of your motion?

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: Yes, Sir. I move that the demand of Rs. 1,92,000 for the salaries of three Ministers under "22E" be reduced by the extent of the salary of one of the Ministers, viz., Rs. 64,000.

This is not a new question. About two years ago, I moved a similar resolution. At the time, however, I was criticized, though some of my friends here supported me and some even ridiculed me. Now, after two years' experience, it has been demonstrated that the work is really not sufficient for so many Members and Ministers and that two Executive Councillors and two Ministers are quite capable of managing the work, and this has been the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee. The Committee have, however, suggested that the number of Members

and Ministers should be in each case reduced to two, but for the Executive Council a year's time will be granted during which the necessary adjustment should be made and the reduction would be made from the beginning of the next Council. That being the recommendation of the Committee, I think that so far as the Ministers are concerned, the question should be decided at once. It relates to the expenditure in the transferred departments and it is now the time when this should be done. There is one thing, however, which I should bring to the notice of the Council. When the question was raised on the last occasion, Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea told us, I believe, that the reduction would not affect the present Ministers. I could not understand it. I do not know whether there is any special contract or not. However, the term of this Council is going to end by November or December and from January next a new Council will come into existence. If there be any special arrangement for the Ministers, at any rate the allowances for the Ministers from January to March next will affect the budget and in the next year's budget the whole amount should not be provided in the face of the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee. The Committee's report was submitted about two or three months ago and I see no special reason why so much time should be taken in coming to a decision. Of course, in other matters, say, regarding the reduction of the number of clerks or such things, some time may be taken and we can understand that some time should be allowed. But so far as this matter is concerned I believe no time should be lost. If there be any special reason, or if it is desired, that some further reduction should be made either for the whole amount or for a portion—if there be any such difficulty—I am quite willing to accept that suggestion; but in no case can we grant the whole amount. In this view of the matter, I brought forward this proposition. I think that Government should make a clear statement and we must know what the actual circumstances are and at what decision Government has arrived. With these observations, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (Babu Surendra Nath Ray): I ask for leave to withdraw the following motion:—

"That, the demand of Rs. 1,92,000 under head '22E' for the salaries of the Ministers be reduced to Rs. 1,08,000."

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I have got four motions in my name. May I move them all with one speech?

Mr. PRESIDENT: I wish you would, if you have no objection.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I rise to a point of order. Two separate questions are raised in these motions—one is the reduction

of the number of Ministers and the other is the reduction of their salary. I think it would be inconvenient if they be mixed up altogether.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I will call upon Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta to move his motion for a reduction in the salary of the Ministers.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 1,92,000 for the salaries of the Ministers under head "22E.—Ministers" be reduced by Rs. 64,000.

My motion is only in support of the one moved by my friend, Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, that, according to the suggestion of the Retrenchment Committee's Report, we ask that the number of Ministers should be reduced; and that is all I wish to say.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: As I understand it, this is a motion arising out of the Retrenchment Committee's report and I would ask the House to deal with it in the way that His Excellency has recommended the House to deal with all the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee; that is to say, they should not rush into passing a vote on the subject until they have had before them the considered opinion of Government on it. I myself, as Chief Secretary, drew up a scheme of duties for the Ministers, the division of departments—the transferred departments—among the Ministers before the Reforms Act came into force, and I do know that there is a certain amount to be said on the other side. But I would ask the House to reserve their opinion on this recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee until Government are able to come to a definite conclusion themselves and to give the House the reasons for that conclusion.

The motion standing in the name of Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, as amended, was then put and lost.

The motion standing in the name of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta was not put as it was covered by the previous decision of the Council.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 1,92,000 under the head "22E.—Ministers" be reduced by Rs. 48,000.

He delivered his speech in Bengali, a translation of which is as follows:—

The Reforms, we anticipated, would bode immense good to the country, but it is a pity that things are going from bad to worse. In the pre-reform days, Ministers were not in existence, and no expenditure on account of their salaries was incurred. At least the amount to the extent of their salaries was spent on charity and other noble purposes. During the tenure of office of these Ministers, no material improvement has been effected in this country. On the contrary, poverty, famine and floods have increased.

The non-official Chairmen of the district boards do not in any way do less work than these Ministers. They work rather more hard. The Ministers have their Secretaries to assist them. As the Chairmen have not, they have to do the Secretary's portion of the work as well. The Chairmen work without any salaries, and they try their best to do their duties without any remuneration. If the Ministers' posts be unpaid and honorary, I think that many men will come forward to work with efficiency. Mr. Madhu Sudhan Das of the Bihar and Orissa Government expressed his willingness to carry on his duties there without any remuneration.

No Minister in this country is willing to accept any lower salary than that of an Executive Member inasmuch as according to his view, it will lower his prestige and position if he accepts a lower salary. The living in India is cheaper when compared with other countries, but it is astonishing that the salaries here are much too high. The salaries of the high officials in other countries are not more than Rs. 1,000 or so, but unfortunately the salaries of the middle class officers—not to speak of the high officials—are higher than those of the high officials of other countries. The salaries of the Executive Members are very high, but we have no control over them. But that is not the reason why we should be silent so far as the salaries of the Ministers are concerned. If either through our efforts or through the self-sacrificing spirit of the Hon'ble the Ministers, their salaries are reduced, then the question of the reduction of the salaries of the Hon'ble the Executive Members might engage the attention of the authorities in England. Sir, the Ministers are our own countrymen. So, if for the purpose of serving their own country, they display the magnanimity of accepting a lower salary than what they actually get now, I am sure their names will stand immortal in the annals of the Government of Bengal.

The Hon'ble Ministers have been invested with plenary powers. The bulk of the members of this House aspire to attain to that eminent position. Therefore, Sir, though the members may not agree to our proposal for the reduction of the Ministers' salaries, still I would venture to entreat the Hon'ble Ministers this time to accept—not Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 2,000—but Rs. 4,000—as their monthly salaries, a decent sum indeed.

The Retrenchment Committee have recommended the reduction of Rs. 64,000 under the head "Ministers' Salaries," that is, they want to do away with the post of one Minister. Further, a lot of heated discussion was made before in this Council in this regard. It is, therefore, unnecessary for me to go over the same ground again. In 1921, I advanced many reasons, but as I foresaw that there was not the slightest possibility of reducing the salaries to the extent of so low a sum as one or two thousand, I had to give up that idea altogether. I have, therefore, put in this motion to fix the Ministers' salaries at Rs. 4,000 on the

lines of the Government of Bombay. If the Ministers themselves do not yield to accept this sum, reasonings will find no place here, for it is usually seen that power predominates everywhere, and the Ministers, as I have already said, have been invested with plenary powers. Sir, the Hon'ble the Ministers promised in the past that they would contribute a certain portion of their salaries on famine, floods, and other kindred objects. We want to know what they have done in this direction. If they have not done anything, we may well expect that they should now do something.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I moved a resolution on the subject of the Ministers' salaries at the beginning of the Reformed Council in 1921. Then I expressed myself in most emphatic terms that drastic reduction of pay all round was necessary to give stable equilibrium to a too much top-heavy administration, in which money wrung out of the poor people of the soil was being utilized mainly to pay at the top and not at the foundation—and no heed was paid to the development of the people of the country.

I stick to all I urged on that occasion. My principle point, however, was an all-round reduction of pay at the top and in number also. Unfortunately, there have been recently increments of pay and allowances almost everywhere. The same, however, has done this much good that the too costly nature of the administration has now been recognized by the Government, and in the words of His Excellency, "retrenchment is required in order to have more money for productive and beneficial works." One cannot but appreciate this clear expression of His Excellency's "conviction of the urgent need of the country for the provision of better sanitation, medical relief, better education, and productive interprises."

Considerable retrenchments on the lines of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee are, therefore, reasonably expected at an early date. Various vested interests will undoubtedly extend their feelers of obstruction and I fear it has already emanated in the guise of the principle of absorption and consequent closure of new recruitments. It is, however, hoped that the bold statesmanship chalked out the other day by His Excellency will not be choked or clouded by all these.

Now, as to the particular question before us, we have to calmly consider the same in all respects, the *pros* and *cons* thereof. While on the one hand, there is no denying that the pay of the members of the Government is very high, especially considering the economic conditions of the country, it is on the other hand necessary to consider if it is desirable to reduce the pay of the popular side alone, the other side being beyond our profane touch. The same consideration arises if the Indian *versus* imported agency is considered, as the Indians are on both sides of Government. Why then reduce the pay of the Indians on the popular side of Government alone? Experience of the last two

years has clearly shown that the duties of the Hon'ble Ministers are certainly arduous. They have to work with all the defects of a dyarchy at great odds and against numerically stronger forces. These and others are limitations of law, and, however much we may regret or smart under the same, stern facts cannot be ignored and we came to face them when we entered the Council.

It will be but bare justice to say that the Hon'ble Ministers had done their best to serve the people and in spite of the limitations have done their work as became them, in the most trying circumstances. (Hear, hear!)

My object is not to make them the targets of abuses for the purpose of catching votes on the eve of the general election. (Hear, hear!)

As regards the general policy of administration and the development of the country and what I value most, namely, the softening influence in liberating a watertight government, our Ministers cannot be said to be behind any in any other province. What they have done will fructify more under future Ministers, and I believe some of the gentlemen are angling for the same. It is, therefore, painful when personal abuses are showered on them. Is it not rather desirable to utilize the defects of ministerial administration as a system to remove their disabilities and limitations and improve the system of Government instead of personally attacking them and gaining cheap popularity outside among a certain section of the community?

The case, therefore, reduces itself into the consideration of one main point. Admitting the pay to be high, will not a forced reduction of the Ministers' pay alone render them still more small in the Government of which they are undoubtedly component parts? And, if so, will not their usefulness as popular representatives and protectors of popular interest be still more diminished? The point is really deserving of great but cautious considerations. I have therefore proposed the figure which the Hon'ble Ministers themselves proposed to take on the first occasion of the discussion of this subject. To lower the same still more will be to propose to them to accept pay lower than that of their own subordinates. Honorary services in that case would be better. But in spite of the fascination of such proposals at the outside one should be alive to the fact that such reduction will only——

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I rise to a point of order. Is the mover opposing his own amendment or supporting it?

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: The Kumar Sahib need not be so solicitous for myself.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Annada Babu, never mind the Kumar Sahib, but please go on with your speech.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: This is a prospect which will affect the Kumar himself and that is why he is so nervous. But in spite

of the fascination of such proposals we should be alive to the fact that such reduction will only bar the prospects of ordinary middle class but worthy men in future and too low pay will mean that the Ministership will be only for the rich few, a consummation which certainly the people cannot desire. (Hear, hear!)

There has been some talk that nothing is known what the Ministers have done with the quarter of the pay they proposed to put into beneficial objects. This is a lamentable sign of want of confidence in our ownselves. Ministers are not expected to trumpet their own doings, but one might learn if one was so inclined. I have to thankully acknowledge substantial donations from them for the proposed Chittagong medical school and I know many other similar instances.

I would therefore not force their hands and thus become an agent for reduction of their pay, a reduction which will at once lose itself into the unfathomable labyrinths and intricacies of the Finance Department and will never emerge out of it in the shape we would wish. (Hear, hear!)

At the same time, I fervently appeal to the Hon'ble Ministers themselves in the name of their poor country to do something in this matter which will go to allay feelings in certain quarters created more or less from interested motives.

Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: The question of the Ministers' salary is as old as this Council. The country in no uncertain voice is demanding reduction in this matter. Bombay, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces and even Bihar have shown the way, but Bengal is lagging behind. The Hon'ble Ministers themselves voluntarily announced their intention of contributing Rs. 16,000 each annually to some benevolent cause. But unfortunately we have not heard of instances where the contribution has been made. I appeal to the Hon'ble Ministers to rise to the occasion and save the fair name of Bengal by agreeing to accept what they themselves announced.

[At this stage the Hon'ble the President left the Chamber and Mr. Deputy-President took the Chair.]

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: One of the greatest drawbacks of the present system of Indian administration is its costliness. Our publicists have for a long time past urged the view that the burden of the expenditure of the administration in India is far too heavy for the poor people to bear. It is now necessary for us to adopt the principle that our own countrymen should serve their country on comparatively smaller rates of remuneration. Sir, in recent years public expenditure has grown so enormously that Government is finding it extremely difficult to make two ends meet. Retrenchment has thus become the cry of the day, but in carrying out this policy of retrenchment, Government must show fairness to all. In this view, retrenchment must begin at the

top and not at the bottom. With what hearts will you approach the poor clerks and ask them to starve themselves and the members of their families while people in higher positions refuse to accept even small cuts in their fat salaries. If, however, our Ministers agree to a reduction of their salaries, they will set an example, which will be followed, either voluntarily or otherwise, by officers of all grades, and even the men in the lower rungs of the ladder will reconcile themselves to the changed situation in a spirit of greater resignation. It may be said that the reduction of Ministers' salaries will not effect much economy, but I submit that at a time when the financial difficulties of Government are so great as to compel them to retrench in all possible directions and to levy fees from poor hospital patients, the saving of nearly half a lakh a year is not negligible. In this connection I may be permitted to point out that the Ministers are not officials in the ordinary sense of the term. There is no analogy between the Ministers and the Members of the Executive Council. The Government of India Act of 1919 has excluded them from the category of officials. The Ministers are, or ought to be, representatives of the people, who accept their positions not on account of the emoluments they carry but because of the opportunities they afford them for rendering services to their country. Now, Sir, there can be no real service unless it is rendered in a spirit of sacrifice. This is true of every country, especially of India. I admit that every one is not capable of the highest kind of sacrifice, but some sacrifice, however small, is demanded of every person who claims to be a leader of men. Sir, public opinion in India is practically unanimous in the matter. The Indian edited press, with hardly a single exception, has declared in favour of the policy or reduction of the salaries of Ministers. And in deference to this expression of opinion, the Ministers in most of the provinces have, either of their own motion or as a result of the decision of the Council, accepted reductions in their salaries. Sir, the salaries have been reduced in Bombay, in the Central Provinces, in the United Provinces, in Bihar, and in Madras. Sir, there was a time when Bengal used to lead. But now she is afraid even to follow. To the Central Provinces belongs the credit of having shown the way in this matter. Let not the discredit of Bengal's of being the only province in India to stand out fortified by the opinion of the Retrenchment Committee which was presided over by a businessman of great authority and which contained many officials.

As to the amount of the pay, there seems to be a considerable divergence of opinion. Personally, I am of opinion that a salary of Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 2,500 should be sufficient. But there are persons who hold that if a somewhat higher amount is proposed, it would stand a greater chance of being accepted by the Ministers. The salary of a Judge of an Indian High Court is Rs. 4,000. This is also the figure which has been accepted by Ministers of those provinces in which their salaries have been

curtailed. I therefore propose a cut of Rs. 48,000 or Rs. 16,000 for each of the Ministers.

I shall now say a few words about the possible objections which may be taken to my proposal. Two such objections seem to me to deserve consideration. The first is that it will lead to loss of dignity and prestige. It is true that when the pay is fixed by an outside authority, the question of prestige does come in. That is why all the public bodies in India insisted on the status and the initial pay of the Ministers being made equal to that of the Members of the Executive Council of the province concerned. Now if that pay is fixed by a Legislative Council of which the Ministers are in one aspect the leaders and in another the agents, the question of loss of prestige cannot raise. It is conceivable that the Council will do anything which may in the slightest degree impair the dignity and prestige of their own leaders and agents? The second objection is that the proposal involves a departure from the principle of "equal work, equal pay." The Ministers perform work similar to that performed by a Member of the Executive Council. Why then, is it asked, should there be a difference in pay? I am not particularly anxious to give to the Executive Councillors the salary which they now draw, but that is a matter which is beyond our control. Besides, so far as the question of Indians *versus* Europeans is concerned, our motto should be not "equal work, equal pay," but "more work, better work, and less pay." If this principle is adopted by us, our demand for the transfer of the administrative machinery to Indian hands will become irrestible.

Before I conclude, Sir, I desire to make it perfectly clear that in bringing forward this motion it is not my intention to move a vote of censure upon the Ministers. Nor am I actuated by any feeling of personal antipathy towards them. Sir, I began my political career as an humble follower of the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea 22 years ago. Although I differ from him on many questions of public policy, my attitude towards him is still one of esteem and regard. Nor have I any feeling of unfriendliness towards the other Ministers. I would, therefore, ask them to banish from their minds any suspicion of hostility towards them and I earnestly appeal to them to accept the motion, for, by doing so, they will not only not lose their dignity and prestige but will raise themselves considerably in the estimation of their countrymen.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: May I have your permission, Sir, to move these three resolutions together; they all deal with the same subject?

Mr. DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Yes, will you please do so?

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move—

(i) that the demand of Rs. 64,000 for the salary of the Minister of Public Health under "22E.—Ministers" be reduced by Rs. 16,000;

(*ii*) that the demand of Rs. 64,000 for the salary of the Minister of Education under "22E.—Ministers" be reduced by Rs. 16,000; and

(*iii*) that the demand of Rs. 64,000 for the salary of the Minister of Agriculture under "22E.—Ministers" be reduced by Rs. 16,000.

My original idea in having three separate motions for three separate Ministers was to bring them separately before the bar of this Council's opinion in order to discuss the work that they had done for the good of the country, and let the Council give its verdict, but having realized but too well that the manipulation of votes in this Council has developed into a fine art, and having realized that these Ministers will soon be standing before the greater bar of the country's public opinion, I refrain to-day from bringing them before the bar of this House; I am content to wait for the country's verdict. To-day I shall only discuss the general question of the salaries of the Ministers which has, unfortunately, become a perennial subject in this Council. We have already discussed the matter on three different occasions during the last two years, and it is a thousand pities that we have met here to discuss it again to-day. The hon'ble gentlemen who are very jubilant to-day sitting sheltered behind the impregnable fort of Government votes, will have to come up again for votes; we have advocated reduction from many standpoints; we have urged it as a measure of financial economy; we have urged it as a protest against the exceedingly high cost of administration; we have urged it from the standpoint of principle. As a standard of the highest salary that can be paid by this province, we have quoted the example of Japan; we have cited the ennobling precedents of Mr. Gokhale, but we have shouted in vain. We have shouted ourselves hoarse over this matter, and I do not think it will help our cause very much if we were to reiterate the same arguments, over which we have quarreled during the last two years. I shall only say this year we have a fresh example; as has been mentioned by Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea the weight of public opinion has made itself felt in almost all the provinces of India; will not our province follow that lead? Will our province disgrace itself by lagging behind? Let us hope not. Our Ministers have often preached in eloquent terms that Bengal should take the lead in all the provinces. They should be more particular now in taking the lead and not permit Bengal to lag behind. Personally I am of opinion that Rs. 4,000 is too much and during the last two years I have moved for much smaller salaries; to-day I shall give the Ministers a chance of accepting their own suggestion. Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea said in his first year on behalf of himself and his brother Ministers that they would be content with Rs. 4,000 a month for personal expenses and the balance would go to charity. The matter of charity is a very delicate question and I shall not go into it to-day, but I ask this Council: Who deserves this charity most to-day; is it not

this bankrupt Government which had to tax the people of this province in order to run the ordinary administration which is the best object of charity to-day? I hope the Hon'ble Ministers by taking only Rs. 4,000 and giving the rest as charity to this Government will keep their promise.

My friend, Mr. Annada Charan Dutta, has waxed eloquent to-day by saying that we who criticize the Ministers are doing so only to catch votes for the next general election. I am very glad to hear this statement. We only hope that by criticizing the Ministers it is possible to catch votes, or in other words to say that the mind of the country is for criticizing the Ministers and reducing their salaries. If that is the way of catching votes and giving vent to the opinion of the people, then I say it is all the more reason why the Ministers should be content to take Rs. 4,000 a month. My friend, Annada Babu, has grown very eloquent because he has been able to get Rs. 15,000 from the three Ministers for the medical school at Chittagong, but does he realize that if we were able to reduce the salary by Rs. 48,000, he would have got more and not merely Rs. 15,000? I need not go into further details, but I hope the good sense of the House will prevail to-day and we shall not be obliged to ask for a division. I know our Ministers are able to-day, with the help of the Government votes and the manipulation of a considerable number of other's votes, to defeat us, but the country will know that it has not been beaten in this matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The history of this question is well known to the Council. Before the inauguration of the Reforms before the 2nd of January, 1921, His Excellency Lord Ronaldshay had to fix the salary of the Ministers under the Act. It was to be fixed at a sum not exceeding that of the Members of Council. The present salary was fixed after full consideration of the previous history—the demand was unanimous that the Ministers should be equal in dignity and pay to the Members of Council—and also of the question of what salary was necessary in order to attract the best men to the work. Of the first we have heard much to-day; of the second consideration not a single member has made mention. After consideration of these two questions, His Excellency Lord Ronaldshay fixed the pay of the Ministers at that of the Members of Council, subject under the law to a resolution to be passed by this Council deciding what the pay should be. This Council passed a resolution deciding that the pay should be the same as that of the Members of Council. On three, possibly four or even five occasions—it seems to me innumerable occasions since then—the Council has reopened and reviewed this question of the Ministers' pay. On every single occasion they have endorsed the pay fixed by His Excellency Lord Ronaldshay. I think that Government can claim with this history of the question behind it, that the pay Lord Ronaldshay fixed upon is nearer that approved by the country than any of these innumerable suggestions which

we have since had. No two members of the Council seem to be able to agree as to what is the right pay; I think, therefore, we may say that Government has fixed the right pay.

The arguments on both sides of this question are well known; we have had them, as I say, at least half a dozen times; there is nothing new to be said; nothing new has been said. I would only put it to the Council that it is not suitable to the dignity of their Ministers or to the respect that is due to them that the question of the Ministers' salaries should be dragged up on every possible occasion. In our private life we do not every month tell our servants that we shall reduce their pay; we are only too happy if we do not have to raise it. I do think the Council should consult its own dignity and not bring this question again out for discussion.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: It is obvious that a great change has come upon this Council. When I came to this room to-day I found there was a motion reducing the salary to Rs. 3,000. What was my astonishment to find that that motion was withdrawn; then I found gentlemen who had given motions fixing the salary at Rs. 4,000 a month speaking against it themselves. There is no reality about this performance which is not becoming to this Council. Sir, as for me, I have no option; when I sought election from the great body of graduates in this country one item in my programme was that there should be no salary more than Rs. 2,000 a month, and upon that programme I was elected. The educated community of this country, I must say, are unanimous on this point, that the salary should not be more than Rs. 2,000 a month. When I moved this question at the very first meeting of this Council I gave you figures showing that in none of the great colonies of the British Empire were the Ministers paid more than Rs. 2,000 a month. I am told that we are divided on this question and were defeated before. I wrote to Lord Ronaldshay that on this question the official members should abstain from voting; my request was not acceded to. If that request was acceded to, I believe the salary would have been reduced to Rs. 2,000 a month. I for my part find that this fight has gone on for three years; nobody can here say that the country has wavered in its opinion that the salary should not be more than Rs. 2,000. They were unanimous that a motion should be brought before this Council; every district, every subdivision telegraphed to its member here to vote for my motion, and some members rose up to say that they were not bound by the mandates of their constituencies, they said they were the leaders and were not to be led by them. Now, I for one shall not lower the flag to-day. Let others do so, I doubt their sincerity. I stand upon my claim that no salary should be more than Rs. 2,000 a month. Only four months are left and this shall be one of my election cries, and I shall see that each of these members who are now supporting Rs. 4,000——

Mr. DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: There is no such motion before this House.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I am opposing this Rs. 4,000 motion. I want to see which of these gentlemen who are now supporting these motions will get elected. Let it be clearly understood that the issue before the country is that the salary should not be more than Rs. 2,000 a month.

[At this stage the Hon'ble the President returned to the Chair.]

Mr. W. L. TRAVERS: The Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson truly said in referring to the history of this question that Indian opinion previous to the Reforms was unanimous that the Ministers should receive the same salary as that of the Executive Council Members. A motion moved and passed unanimously by all the Indian members was passed in the old Council during the session at Dacca. The movers of this resolution now say that it is the unanimous Indian opinion that the Ministers' salaries should be reduced. Yet they insist upon the point that in moving this resolution there is no vote of want of confidence or censure implied. Sir, all I can say is that to the ordinary man in the street, to the Britisher if this motion be passed it will certainly appear that a vote of want of confidence has been passed. That being so, I desire to put on record the opinion of the ordinary Britisher upon this matter. We consider that the Ministers of this Reformed Council have done yeoman service to democracy in Bengal. Further, not only in administration, but also in one direction which I think is not fully realized to-day, and that is in overcoming the difficulties of dyarchy. Hence I can only say that I am perfectly certain that every Britisher in this Council will oppose this motion with all his strength.

Mr. J. A. JONES: I entirely agree with what has been said by Mr. Stephenson as to the undignified position into which this Council puts itself by this constant indulgence in what I may call "Minister baiting." I claim to know something of the procedure in other countries, including England, and I say, without fear of being challenged that there is no country in the world where these puerile, insulting motions for the reduction of ministerial salaries would be tolerated for a moment; not in the smallest country in Europe, not even the most barbarous country in Europe, would this incessant chivying of Ministers over their salaries be permitted, or even thought of. As Mr. Stephenson has said we do not even treat our domestics in the way in which some members of this Council are anxious to treat their Ministers. I notice one of them said that he has no personal feeling in the matter. All I can say is, he conceals his affection with very great success. As the song says: "It is all very well to dissemble your love, but why did you kick me downstairs." Even in the menial departments of the Government, to say nothing of the subordinate services, every man is sure of his salary and even sure of

an increment. It is only the Ministers who never know from one six months to another what is going to be their income in the next half year. As Mr. Stephenson has reminded the Council, the scale of pay was fixed at the desire of the Council itself. When the question arose as to whether the Ministers should be paid less than the members of Council, it was the unanimous feeling, and I think a very proper feeling, that if they were paid less it would imply a position of inferiority on their part. There are two criteria which are possible in this matter. You may say that Ministers should be paid the same as the Members of the Executive Council less the overseas allowances and possibly there may be something to be said in favour of that view. There is the other criterion and that is that you must pay a salary which will secure the best men for the work. Reference has been made to the salaries of the Judges of the High Court. Well, Sir, it is notorious that no successful Barrister, except from a sense of duty, like Sir Asutosh Chaudhuri, will accept the position of Judge of the High Court. There is no successful businessman who will accept the office at the present pay and it is perfectly well-known that the post has been refused by very capable men because the difference between their earning and the pay was much too wide. My contention is that in this matter we should make up our mind at the beginning of some period—say of the life of the Council—once and for all what we are going to pay to the Ministers and after having settled the point on some rational basis we should stick to it and not be continually discussing these harassing motions for a reduction which put Bengal and this Council in a very invidious light. It has been said that the other provinces have reduced the salaries of their Ministers. I have only one word to say to that—let Bengal stand out and show that it is prepared to pay its Ministers a decent wage.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: The Council is well aware that the fixing of the salaries of the Ministers was one of the burning questions when we entered the Council. At that time the Ministers themselves thought that Rs. 4,000 a month would be quite enough and they announced that Rs. 1,000 would be given to charity just at the moment when the votes of the Council were about to be taken. This offer was much appreciated by the Council and they were given an ovation.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Let us be accurate, Maulvi Sahib. I understand that that offer was made by the Ministers after the votes of the Council were taken.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: I am sorry my memory has played me false. The sense of the Council was then that there ought to be reduction of their salaries and in deference to that feeling the Hon'ble Ministers showed a great magnanimity of heart by announcing that they would be satisfied with Rs. 4,000 a month and this announcement was

agreed to when the members of the Council were going to vote for the salary of the Ministers. Mr. Jones said that this had to be decided once for all. In almost all the provinces of India the salaries of Ministers have been reduced to Rs. 4,000. The Raja of Mahmudabad does not take a single farthing for the onerous duties of an Executive Member. Then the Ministers of the Central Provinces from the very beginning of the inauguration of the Reforms have condescended to take a lesser pay than what was proposed by Government, and only the other day the Ministers of the Bihar Government have followed suit and are now satisfied with Rs. 4,000 a month. Coming nearer home, we see Babu Surendra Nath Ray, who is sitting there as Deputy-President, does not take a single pice as Deputy-President and carried on the onerous duties of the President for a very long time without remuneration. These are noble examples, and I trust Bengal will not be lagging behind in this matter with her sister provinces and I am sure the proposal that has been made by my hon'ble friend for fixing the salaries of Ministers at Rs. 4,000 is a very handsome sum which I hope and trust will find a ready response from the Ministers. With these few words, I support the motion.

Mr. F. E. E. VILLIERS: I move that the question be now put to the vote.

On a vote being taken by show of hands, Mr. President declared the motion to be carried.

The motion standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Aley, Mr. S. Mahboob.
Banerjea, Dr. Pramathanath.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Chaudhuri, Sir Asutosh.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Maitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.

NOES.

Afzal, Nawabzada K. M., Khan Bahadur.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emaduddin.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Birley, Mr. L.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Carey, Mr. W. L.
Choudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Nafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Chaudhury, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Rahmatjan.
Chowdhury, Maulvi Fazal Karim.
Cohen, Mr. D. J.
Crawford, Mr. T. C.
Das, Mr. S. R.

Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.
Deare, Major-General B. H.
DeLisle, Mr. J. A.
Donald, the Hon'ble Mr. J.
Donovan, Mr. J. T.
Dess, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Emerson, Mr. T.
Faroqui, Mr. K. C. M.
Geede, Mr. S. W.
Haq, Maulvi A. K. Fazl-ul.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
Huntingford, Mr. G. T.
Jones, Mr. J. A.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the.
Makramali, Munshi.
Marr, Mr. A.
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukerjee, Mr. S. C.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhen.
Philip, Mr. J. Y.
Peddar, Babu Kesheram.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal.
Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. Krishna Chandra.
Robertson, Mr. F. W.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh.
Roy, Mr. C. N.
Roy, Mr. J. N.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Manilell Singh.
Rose, Mr. C. F.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.
Skinner, Mr. H. E.
Stark, Mr. H. A.
Stephenson, the Hon'ble Mr. H. L.
Stuart-Williams, Mr. S. C.
Travers, Mr. W. L.
Villiers, Mr. F. E. E.

The Ayes being 16 and the Noes 72, the motion was lost.

The motions standing in the name of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta were then put and lost.

The following motions were then, by leave of the Council, with drawn:—

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 12,000 for travelling allowance under the head '22E.—Ministers' be reduced to Rs. 7,500."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 500 under the head '22E.—Ministers—Hill Allowance' be refused."

The following motions were, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 12,000 for travelling allowance under the head '22E.—Ministers' be reduced by Rs. 2,000."

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 8,000 for 'Miscellaneous—Supplies and Services and Contingencies' under the head '22E.—Ministers' be reduced by Rs. 2,000."

Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY: "That the demand for Rs. 2,15,000 under the head '22E.—Ministers' be reduced by Rs. 92,000."

Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 2,15,000 under the head '22E.—Ministers' be reduced by Re. 1 only."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 4,550, under the head "22E.—Legislative Council—Temporary Establishment" be refused.

An ordinary businessman thinks that the office of the Legislative Council is already overstaffed and I think that, like other departments, it is top-heavy and has become unworkable. The result is that it asks for more clerks and more *chaprassis* though we are talking of retrenchment. Unless we stop this, how can we reduce the staff? We must start with the extra hands before reducing the permanent establishment. Hence my motion for the abolition of the temporary staff.

Mr. DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I think my hon'ble friend, Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur, does not know the amount of work which the office of the Legislative Department has to do at times. They have to work sometimes up to 8 or 9 o'clock and under great pressure. It is therefore necessary at times to employ these temporary hands. I hope my hon'ble friend will withdraw his motion.

MEMBER in charge of LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur is quite mistaken in this matter. This temporary establishment has been in existence for the last two years in order to bring out a new issue of the Bengal Statutory Rules and Orders. It has already done two years' work, but still one year's work has got to be done; and unless this staff is sanctioned the entire work done up-to-date would be lost and the work will remain incomplete. After a year there would be no further need for this extra establishment.

The motion was then put and lost.

Mr. S. M. BOSE: I move that the demand for Rs. 1,20,000 under the head "22F.—Legislative Council" for travelling allowance be reduced by Rs. 20,000."

Although the amount is Rs. 10,000 less than in this year's, yet I move for a further reduction and Ishall put my reasons very briefly—

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I think it will shorten the discussion if I say at this stage I am prepared to accept a cut of Rs. 5,000. I have looked into the matter carefully and I find that I cannot go any further.

Mr. S. M. BOSE: I accept that.

The motion was then put in the following form and agreed to:—

"That the demand for Rs. 1,20,000 under the head '22F.—Legislative Council' for travelling allowance be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 2,000 under the head "22F.—Legislative Council—Hill Allowances" be refused.

I really fail to understand why it is absolutely essential for the Legislative Council to be provided with Hill Allowances. These allowances are evidently meant to be spent on the staff when some members of the Legislative Council will be asked to meet in committee at the hills. Sir, if I have not misunderstood the matter, this money is wanted only if the members of the Select Committee are called upon to meet at Darjeeling as they had to go in connection with meetings on the Calcutta Municipal Bill. Sir, I am really unable to understand why the discussions of a Bill of that character should be taken up to the heights of the Darjeeling Hills. Whatever that may be I have not been convinced as to the necessity of holding meetings of Select Committees during the October session in any place other than in Calcutta. If no such meetings are held at Darjeeling there would hardly be any necessity for any provision for hill allowances under the head "Legislative Council." This is my justification for putting in this motion.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIMff This allowance that is asked for is not for the Select Committee or for the members of the Legislative Council, but for the clerks of the Legislative Department going up to the hills. The Department has got to be where the entire Government is and where different Legislative projects are discussed. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary for them that they should go up to Darjeeling when other departments are there. When the entire Government ceases to go to Darjeeling there would be no necessity for the Legislative Department to go. This allowance is only for the clerks. This year a number of legislative projects will be considered for the July session which is going to be a rather heavy session, and these projects have got to be discussed. It is expected that the winter session will be comparatively short as there will be a new election. Having regard to all these facts I hope Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur will be prepared to accept a cut of Rs. 500.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Surendra Narayan Sinha was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 2,000 under the head '22F.—Legislative Council—Hill Allowance' be reduced to Rs. 1,500."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: In view of the assurances that the matter will be considered I do not like to press my motion.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 46,000 for office expenses and miscellaneous under '22.—General Administration—Legislative Department,' be reduced by Rs. 16,000."

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 46,000 under the head '22F.—Legislative Council—Office Expenses and Miscellaneous' be reduced by Rs. 1,000."

The following motions standing in the name of Rai Fanindralal De Bahadur were, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 50,300 for supplies and services and contingencies under the head '22F.—Legislative Council' be reduced by Rs. 10,000.

"That the demand of Rs. 50,300 for contingencies under the head '22F.—Legislative Council' be reduced by Rs. 2,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 27,000 under the head "22F.—Legislative Council—Book Depôt Establishment—Postage, etc." be refused.

He delivered his speech in Bengal, a translation of which is as follows:—

I do not see any reason why Rs. 27,000 has been budgeted for this item this year In 1921, the budget grant was Rs. 13,700 and last year it was Rs. 20,000. I do not see any reason for this increase. To economize, I think the postage can be saved if letters are sent per peons and not posted in the dâk. I would, therefore, move my motion for the reduction of Rs. 7,000.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: The Book Depôt is a subordinate department of the Legislative Department and the demand consists, as the Budget states, of the charges for postage and telegrams. Of course, it is rather a big figure—Rs. 27,000— but the House has got to remember that all the Government publications have to be circulated, including the *Calcutta Gazette*, the proceedings of this Council, and numerous other publications, and this has been going on for years, and as the House knows, the postal rates have also been increased. It is not possible for us to reduce this demand below the figure that has been given.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following motions were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 3,04,500 under the head "22F.—Legislative Council' be reduced by Rs. 45,000."

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 3,04,500 under the head "22.—General Administration—Legislative Council' be reduced by Rs. 27,500."

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Jogendra Nath Roy was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 3,04,500 under the head '22F.—Legislative Council' be reduced by Rs. 12,000."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 8,400 for the Assistant Secretary, Judicial Department, under "22G.—Civil Secretariat" be refused.

I think I ought to say at first that I have no quarrel with the gentleman who is now holding this post. It is not a personal motion at all, but what I want to protest against is the increasing multiplication of unnecessary work in the Secretariat. I beg to suggest that the departmental work should be much more simplified. As far as I can understand, when any particular department has to deal with a subject, the method is to ask the department to submit the departmental view and the history of the case. That is usually done by the Head Assistant of the Department, and after that the case is submitted to the Secretary. I cannot understand why the Assistant Secretary should come forward and act as a post office to send these files through. If the Assistant Secretary has got to add to the departmental view, then I am afraid the present system of bringing in an outsider, a Deputy Magistrate, who has no knowledge of the history or of the departmental view, does not increase the efficiency of the department at all. If the Assistant Secretary is brought here to give the broad outlook that is necessary to deal with certain files, then, I submit the Secretary is there to do that part of the work. In view of this I think the post of the Assistant Secretary is absolutely superfluous. During the last few years we have noticed unfortunately—I do not know whether it is due to the hot climate or to other causes—that the superior officers are getting rather indolent—I mean the Secretariat staff, the Secretaries. I would suggest that they should do some of the work and do away with this Assistant Secretary. Then there is another point. If these Deputy Magistrates were brought here to give the broad outlook of a subject, then I should suggest that in view of the Indianization of the Services these Deputy Magistrates should act as Secretaries and the I. C. S. Secretaries might be done away with as a matter of retrenchment. From whatever point of view we may look at the matter, the post of Assistant Secretary is absolutely unnecessary and may very well be done away with.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I beg to support the motion which also stands in my name and I need not add any words to what has already fallen from my friend Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta.

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: I only want to add this observation It appears from the budget that in the year 1922-23 there was only one post of Assistant Secretary but in the year 1923-24 the number has been increased to two. Now what I say is that when there are

already a Secretary and an Under-Secretary, why should we in these days of retrenchment, create a new Assistant Secretaryship and increase the cost of administration by another Rs. 8,400? There is also, I understand, a Registrar and so there is absolutely no necessity for this newly created post of Assistant Secretary.

At this stage the Council was adjourned for 15 minutes.

After the adjournment.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: I oppose the motions which have been moved by Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta and Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea and Babu Satish Chandra Mukharji. Sir, at the outset I may be permitted to mention that I may not be misunderstood because one of the speakers has said that he may not be also misunderstood. What perhaps he meant to say was this: that because a Muhammadan gentleman is involved in this amendment, the learned mover wanted to make it clear that he did not move the amendment for doing away with the post of the Muhammadan gentleman. Similarly, Sir, I may not be misunderstood and it may be construed that I am opposing this because the man involved in it is a Muhammadan gentleman. Apart from all racial considerations, I oppose this amendment on its own merit. I would like to point out the functions and the duties of the Assistant Secretary. It is known to you all, Sir, that this Assistant Secreary is practically the only paid Secretary of the Hon'ble Member in charge. The Secretary is the Legal Remembrancer. He has got his office at the High Court and he has got his own duties to perform. In fact, he is not paid for it, and so, as far as the Hon'ble Member is concerned, he has not got any paid Secretary. His only paid Secretary is this gentleman, the Assistant Secretary. Therefore, my friend's whole argument that the work of the Assistant Secretary can be easily done by the Secretary at once falls to the ground. Certainly where there is a Secretary and a Head Assistant, and if the Secretary has got sufficient time to do the work of the Assistant Secretary, the Assistant Secretary may be dispensed with, but where the Secretary has got a separate office of his own and has got his own duties over and above those of the Judicial Secretary, the Hon'ble Member should certainly have an Assistant Secretary in order to put up the departmental view on any question. Therefore, the whole argument was based on a misapprehension of the real facts. The argument put forward is that as all this work can be done by the Secretary, the post of the Assistant Secretary is unnecessary. But, as I have shown, in this particular case, the Secretary is not paid and the only paid Secretary of the Hon'ble Member is this Assistant Secretary and that the Secretary cannot do all this work. Therefore, it is all the more necessary that the Hon'ble Member should have an Assistant Secretary. Sir, again I repeat that I may not be misunderstood in having opposed this amendment simply because the man involved is a Muhammadan gentleman.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: I would like to add only one or two words to what my friend, Mr. Syed Nasim Ali, has said. It has been said that a Deputy Magistrate cannot do the work of the Assistant Secretary in the Judicial Department. Of course the Assistant Secretary is not going to be a judge of any case. He has only to put up cases to the Hon'ble Member, and therefore I feel that an experienced Deputy Magistrate, who has gone through many criminal as well as civil cases, will be able to do ample justice to the duties that are required of the Assistant Secretary. I oppose the motion.

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): It is one of the matters which are the subjects of recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, and therefore it comes within the advice tendered to this House by His Excellency the other day. Of course, I know Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta is not inclined to attach very much weight to that advice, but I would ask the Council, since every matter that is dealt with by the Retrenchment Committee is receiving consideration at the hands of Government and we have not yet reached a conclusion on the recommendations made by them, to suspend their judgment. But, Sir, I think at the same time that I may be permitted to point out that Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta has entirely misconceived the duties of the Assistant Secretary, Judicial Department. The Judicial Department Secretary is also the Legal Remembrancer, and if any one knows anything about the work of the Legal Remembrancer, he will realize at once that he has got very heavy duties and responsibilities as Legal Remembrancer to perform. He has to be always at the High Court; he has to be in touch with the advocates and the pleaders of the High Court; he has to advise on all legal matters concerning all the departments of Government. All the cases which are instituted by the Government or against the Government have to come to him for advice; the plaint, the written statement, come to him for settlement; he has to pass opinion whether decrees in certain cases should be appealed against or other decrees should be supported or not. I myself had personal experience of the department though a long time ago and I know the work is extremely heavy and of a responsible character. Since the Legal Remembrancer has got enough to do as such he must have an Assistant Judicial Secretary if the Secretariat work of the department is to be performed satisfactorily. He cannot be in the Secretariat for any time; he must be in the High Court, and therefore, there must be some one at least of the status of Assistant Secretary in the Secretariat to do the spade work which would be of help to the Secretary in disposing of cases. Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta is quite wrong in thinking that either the Assistant Secretary is a post office simply passing on cases or he must deal with the policy of Government. He does neither. The Assistant Secretary is a sort of link between the Secretary and the clerical staff of the Judicial Department. I understand that in England in

the Secretariat there, there is a corresponding officer belonging to the English Civil Service. He is above the clerks and he is under the Secretary. He is a permanent officer who is a sort of repository of the history and the facts of particular cases. He is not a clerk; his duty is not to hunt up records: his duty is to direct the work of the clerical staff. He plays a valuable part in directing the work of the clerical staff. As I have said, I have no whole-time Secretary which the other Departments have. It was after a great deal of consideration by a Committee which was appointed by the Government of India to look into the working of the Secretariat departments, that posts of this class were created. A man from England with considerable Secretariat experience was brought out to advise the Government of India on these matters, and it was then decided that there ought to be an Indian Assistant Secretary who would perform functions performed by similar officers in England. Before the Reforms that work was performed by an Additional Under-Secretary who was drawn from the I.C.S. That Under-Secretary has been done away with and the Council will therefore see that it cannot be said that this Assistant Secretary is merely a post office; but as I have said to start with, this is one of the matters which are subject of consideration by the Government, and I would therefore ask the House to reject the motion.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Satish Chandra Mukharji was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 7,800 for Registrar under the head 'Civil Secretariat—Judicial, Political, and Appointment Departments' be reduced by Rs. 2,800."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I move that the demand for Rs. 1,89,476 for clerks under the head "22.—General Administration—Civil Secretariat—Judicial, Political, and Appointment Departments" be reduced by Rs. 20,000.

I simply rise to draw the attention of the House to the fact that there has been an increase in the number of clerks from 107 to 115, and the money asked for is also several thousands more than was provided in the revised estimate of the present year. There is no reason why, in these days of retrenchment, there should be an additional number of clerks, and therefore I ask that the sum of Rs. 20,000, which represents the pay of the additional clerks, should be cut from the demand.

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Fanindralal De Bahadur was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 1,89,476 for the pay of the clerks in the Judicial, Political, and Appointment Departments under the head '22G' be reduced by Rs. 10,000."

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I explained when asking for this grant—perhaps the mover was not present at the time—that the figure 107 in the column 1922-23 is a mistake of over a year old. We have always had 115 clerks, and 115 clerks is what we propose to have next year. So there is no increase in the number. As regards the increase in cost, the member has referred to the difference between the revised estimate and the next year's budget estimate. The revised estimate only shows the total. Comparing the totals, the revised estimate is Rs. 2,34,000 and the budget is Rs. 7,68,000 of which Rs. 4,50,000 is, as I have already said, a lump provision for the Council election. The remaining increase of about Rs. 84,000 is due to the rise in the pay of the clerks on account of the introduction of the time-scale, and comparing the provision for clerks in the budget estimate for 1923-24 with the budget estimate for 1922-23, we must take into account the provision of Rs. 48,000 as shown under "non-voted" for the revision of the pay of ministerial establishments and also Rs. 12,000 on account of *ad interim* allowances. Considering these two lump provisions, I submit that there has been considerable reduction from the total amount budgeted last year.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I formally move the demand for Rs. 81,000 under head "22G.—Civil Secretariat—Judicial, Political, and Appointment Departments—Lump provision for Publicity Officers" be refused.

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 81,000 as lump provision for Publicity Officer under '22G.—Civil Secretariat' be reduced to Rs. 45,000."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 81,000 for lump provision for Publicity Officers under head "22G.—Civil Secretariat" be reduced by Rs. 21,000.

In the first year of this Council the Publicity Department was abolished. Since then, for reasons known to the Government, this Department has been created. Now it seems strange that this Publicity Department of all departments is the one which works most in the secret. We do not know what work it does except that now and then a few *communiqués* come out in the papers describing the policy of certain departments of Government. It seems to me that when these *communiqués* are written out by the various departments, the necessity of the Publicity Department for this particular work at any rate does not seem to be much: These various departments which are able to write out their *communiqués* might as well send them to the press. Why should they go to the Publicity Department for this? Then, Sir, I have found out from some inquiry that the Publicity Department does some sort of social service work by

helping the Public Health Department in their propaganda work. I think this work might very well be done by the many Assistant Directors of Public Health whom we have provided in the Public Health Department. In view of all this, I think the demand is extravagant and may be reduced by Rs. 21,000.

The following motion standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 81,000 under the head '22G.—Civil Secretariat—Lump provision for Publicity Officers' be reduced by Rs. 11,000."

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: This Publicity Department, I should say is an absolute waste of public money. We entertain, in a way, two I.C.S. officers in this department besides their establishments. And their main function, I understand, is to grant subsidies, out of this votable sum of Rs. 81,000 to different political and semi-political associations to carry on an anti-non-co-operation propaganda. It is also rumoured that a grant is even made to a member of this Council to publish a newspaper, the ostensible creed of which is to carry on a tirade against the Zamindar community of Bengal.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, order! I do not think that a charge of this kind ought to be brought against a member of this Council.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: Very well, Sir. I will say a gentleman—I should not call him a gentleman—a man—a man gets this subsidy.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: May I rise to a point of order? Is the Kumar justified in making this charge against Government, unless he is prepared to substantiate it?

Mr. PRESIDENT: I was just seeing how far he was going. I was first trying to get him to withdraw his remarks about a member of this Council. I do not know how the Kumar Sahib can bring such a charge against Government without substantiating it.

... **Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** As a member of this Council I have got certain privileges. I am not going to give out the name nor the source of my information. But if the Hon'ble Member would like to have the name in confidence, and if he gives the assurance that he will not take any action to punish the man, my information will be at his disposal. I have certain privileges which neither Mr. Stephenson nor anybody else can question. So much secrecy is maintained about the disbursements of this grant of Rs. 81,000 that it naturally gives rise to our suspicions. We have not the least objection to a propaganda regarding sanitary, industrial, agricultural, or other educational matters, and we never objected to this kind of expenditure when this head was under the

transferred departments. Then everything was above board and we could know everything about it. But the transference of this head to the Political Department and the strict reticence observed about it gives a sinister colouring to the whole thing. If this Government claims to be a popular Government, there is not the least justification for it to carry on a political propaganda through political associations of a certain school. It is also alleged that this department has materially helped a league started by certain Indians and European citizens of Calcutta, in its efforts to influence the electorates in some districts in connection with the forthcoming elections. If true, it is a very sad thing that the Executive Government should in any way meddle with the election. I therefore demand the fullest detail of the disbursement of the grant and also the names of associations which have been pecuniarily helped by it. Failing to obtain these informations it would be our duty to oppose the demand *in toto*. I would also urge upon the Government to retransfer this department to one of the Ministers so that in future we might have the fullest control over its activities.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: It is rather difficult for me to chase at one and the same time the large number of hares that have been started by the two members who have just spoken. Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta says that for reasons best known to Government the Publicity Department was transferred to the Political Department. For reasons known to this Council, this Council in the last August session transferred to the Political Department the grant under the budget heads of the three transferred departments, and it was at that time explained to the Council, in my absence, by Sir John Kerr, that the reason for the transfer was the insistence of the Accountant-General that money actually disbursed by the Publicity Officer must be shown under the same head of the budget as his salary. There is no sinister motive whatever with regard to this. I explained at the time that I had no wish whatever to touch this money that belonged to the transferred departments and it was only on the insistence of the Accountant-General that I gave way and allowed it to be brought under my budget head. I explained that I would only do that on the distinct understanding that the money was spent under the directions and on the responsibility of the Ministers in charge of the transferred departments and so far as the Political Department is concerned it has not touched one penny of that money and has no concern whatever with the spending of a single pice of that money.

Then the Kumar Sahib has raised a serious point. I always understood that whatever might be the privileges of a member of this House it was not one of them to bring forward somewhat vague accusations until he was prepared to substantiate them or at all events to show that he had taken reasonable care and was acting under the reasonable belief that they were true. The charge is brought against Government——

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: May I rise to a personal explanation. The allegation I made I believe to be true.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The charge he made against Government is that Government is subsidizing a political paper—a paper, moreover, directed against the particular class to which the Kumar Sahib himself belongs. I think Government would have a perfect right to ignore that charge until the Kumar Sahib could show that he had reasonable grounds for bringing it. The second charge he made is that Government are spending money from this department on influencing the forthcoming elections. There again, I demand that the Kumar Sahib should let me know what were his reasonable grounds for bringing that accusation against Government. Meanwhile, it seems to be hardly necessary in Council to deny both these allegations *in toto*. The Kumar Sahib again says that he demands a retransfer of the Publicity Department to the Transferred Departments. It has never been under the Ministers; it has never been under the Transferred Departments; since its start the Publicity Department had always been a part of the Political Department and I cannot conceive that it can be placed under any other department. We have been accused of wasting money on this Publicity Department. There may be some misapprehension inasmuch as the lump provision for the Publicity Officer is shown in the coming year as Rs. 81,000 whereas in the last budget it was shown as Rs. 45,000, but I have already explained that in the departmental budgets of last year there was a provision amounting to Rs. 52,000 divided into Rs. 17,500 each in the Department of Commerce and Industry, in the Department of Education, and in the Department of Local Self-Government. These provisions were for departmental publicity or propaganda work and they appeared in the departmental budgets. They now appear in my budget, but the same statement I made just now applies to them, namely, that I have no wish to touch that money and I do not hold myself at all responsible for the way in which that money is spent. It is departmental propaganda work and is done for the Transferred Departments and I have no wish to interfere in any way with the spending of that money. The Ministers are perfectly at liberty to spend it in the way that seems best to them.

On the general question of publicity there are two sides to it; one is educative publicity to which I have just referred. That is I think departmental work which can best be done by the departments; it can only be done under the direction of the departments. No one but the Minister in charge of Public Health knows whether a cinema exhibition showing the evils of malaria and so forth is necessary or desirable in the interests of the department. That must be done under the direction of the department; it is convenient and probably economical that the whole of that work should be done by the Publi-

city Officer if we have got one. I do not say that it would be absolutely necessary to have a Publicity Officer to do that work if he had no other work, but if he is there probably it will be more convenient to put the whole work in his hands. The other side of publicity is a much more difficult one. I think that the House will agree that it is the duty of Government, especially of a Government in India under the present circumstances, where half of the Government is responsible to Parliament and where it is not working under the mandate of the people, is to establish an atmosphere so far as it possibly can, not an atmosphere in favour of any particular government, still less an atmosphere in favour of particular individuals, but an atmosphere in favour of Government as by law established as against an atmosphere in favour of disorder. There may be many different views as to how that can best be done. We have been experimenting; our first effort the Council did not approve of. But Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta is quite wrong when he insinuates that Government restored this Publicity Department for reasons best known to itself behind the back of the Council, because we came to the Council and told them that we wanted this Publicity Department and the Council voted this money. Therefore, the Council is responsible for it as much as we are. It seems to me that there are two sides to this necessity for the creation of an atmosphere. In the first place Government do want a *liaison* officer between itself and the press to help the press and to be in touch with the press. A friendly press can do a great deal towards establishing this atmosphere, while an unfriendly press can have its spines smoothed down by a tactful and persuasive *liaison* officer. I make it quite clear that I have no belief in the conversion of an unfriendly press into a friendly press for the simple reason that an unfriendly press does not want to be converted and would lose its livelihood if it were, but I think the *liaison* officer is a valuable link and he is a valuable link with the people and the various social organizations. It is perfectly legitimate that this Publicity Officer should get into touch with all social organizations, and should put them into touch with the local officers where necessary. He can provide them with necessary information; he can do anything that is legitimate to help them. Then the other part of creating this atmosphere is the direct way of doing it. I am not personally a great believer in flooding the country with pamphlets because I do not think that very many of them are read, but my own view is that our own officers are own best propagandists. An officer of Government who is convinced of the truth of what he is saying is probably the best possible propagandist, but this officer requires assistance. A circle officer is not in a position to go to a village without help and argue with a non-co-operation preacher. We must give him the facts; we must tell him what the actual facts are; then he can do the work. For this purpose we do want a Publicity Officer who will feed our local officers with information and that, to my mind, is the best and most helpful way of conducting this form of propaganda. Opinions may differ and, as I

say, we are still feeling our way; we are not absolutely certain yet. I should like to insist upon the point that this propaganda is not a propaganda in the sense of Western political propaganda; that is a propaganda which we consider is properly party propaganda; the various political parties will do that for themselves. All we want to do is to create this atmosphere in favour of a settled form of Government of some kind, and if possible, against any racial feeling. I think for this work the money we have asked for is well worth spending and we are doing our best to spend it in the most advantageous way and to avoid any possible waste. I, therefore ask for the sanction of the House to the provision.

The motion standing in the name of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta was then put and lost.

The motion standing in the name of Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Surendra Nath Ray was, by the leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 24,000 under the head '22G.—Civil Secretariat—Judicial, Political and Appointment Departments—Lump provision for reporting agency' be refused."

The following motions were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 24,000 for reporting agency under the head '22.—General Administration—Civil Secretariat—Judicial, Political and Appointment Departments' be reduced by Rs. 12,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 4,50,000 under the head '22G.—Civil Secretariat—Lump provision for Council Election' be reduced by Rs. 50,000."

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: As my motion refers to the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee, I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 7,85,000 under the head '22G.—Judicial, Political and Appointment Departments' be reduced by Rs. 1,32,000."

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: "That the demand for Rs. 7,85,000 under the head '22G.—Civil Secretariat—Judicial, Political and Appointment Departments' be reduced by Rs. 8,000."

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand for Rs. 10,200 on account of the salary of an Assistant Secretary under the

head "22.—General Administration (Detailed Account No. 22G., Civil Secretariat, Revenue Department)" be refused.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I support the same motion which also stands in my name. The only thing I should like to add to what I have said about the Assistant Secretary in the Judicial Department is that the Hon'ble Member admitted that the Assistant Secretary did form the link between the Secretary and the clerical staff. What I suggested was this, that instead of having an Assistant Secretary who was a sort of post office, the head of the clerical staff, viz., the Registrar or the Head Assistant who knew all about the Secretariat work could be trusted to do this work. It is absolutely unnecessary to recruit for this work an officer from outside of the Deputy Magistrate class. In view of this I beg to suggest that this demand be refused.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [LAND REVENUE] (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): I think that the arguments which my colleague to the right adduced regarding the necessity of an Assistant Secretary hold good regarding the Assistant Secretary in the Revenue Department. We, in the Revenue Department, have been going into the question of retrenchment and I was going to accept the next motion of Babu Satish Chandra Mukharji that the demand of Rs. 7,800 for Registrar under the head "Civil Secretariat—Revenue Department" be refused, with one alteration that the figure should be Rs. 7,400 instead of Rs. 7,800. We are doing away with the Registrar. The present Registrar is due to retire shortly and he is on leave. We propose to reduce his post. We do not think that we can do without the Assistant Secretary. There is sufficient work for him to do and for that reason I trust that the motions Nos. 329 and 330 will be withdrawn.

The motion was put and lost.

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: I understand that my motion has been accepted subject to an alteration. I accept the alteration suggested by the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan. With your permission I shall move the motion standing in my name formally.

I move that the demand for Rs. 7,400 for Registrar under the head "Civil Secretariat—Revenue Department" be refused.

The motion, as amended, was then put and agreed to.

The following motions were, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 79,304 for the pay of the clerks in the Revenue Department under the head '22G.' be reduced by Rs. 3,000."

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 1,06,000 under the head '22G.—Revenue Department' be reduced by Rs. 50,000."

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: This relates to the pay of the Registrar. As it has already been accepted by Government, I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 1,06,000 under the head '22G.—Civil Secretariat—Revenue Department' be reduced by Rs. 7,800."

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 33,000 under the head '22G.—Civil Secretariat—Local Self-Government and Education Departments—Officers on Special Duty' be refused."

The following motions were, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA and Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 1,10,706 for clerks under the head '22G.—Civil Secretariat—Local Self-Government and Education Departments' be reduced by Rs. 10,000."

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 1,71,000 under the head '22G.—Local Self-Government and Education Departments' be reduced by Rs. 74,000."

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: In view of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, I formally move "that the demand for Rs. 1,71,000 under the head '22G.—Civil Secretariat—Local Self-Government, etc.' be reduced by Rs. 9,000."

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): This is a part of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee and the matter is being considered by Government. Under the circumstances I would ask my friend to withdraw his motion.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Dr. BRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I formally move that the demand for Rs. 16,200 on account of the salaries of an Assistant Secretary and a Registrar under head "22.—General Administration (Detailed Account No. 22G., Civil Secretariat, Agriculture and Industries Department)" be refused.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): I have got the same reply. The matter is under the consideration of Government being a part of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee. So, I would ask the member to withdraw his motion.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta was disallowed by the President as no specific sum was mentioned:—

"That the demand of Rs. 16,200 for the Assistant Secretary and Registrar in the Agriculture and Industries Department under '22G.—Civil Secretariat' be reduced by the pay of the Assistant Secretary."

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I formally move that the demand of Rs. 7,200 for the pay of the Registrar, Agriculture and Industries Department, under the head "22G." be refused.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: This also forms a part of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee and is under the consideration of Government. So, I would ask the member to withdraw it.

The motion was put and lost.

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 16,200 under the head '22G.—Agriculture and Industries' be reduced to Rs. 7,800 by refusing the proposal of creating a new post."

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I formally move that the demand for Rs. 6,000 on account of pay of the temporary establishment under the head '22.—General Administration (No. 22G.—Civil Secretariat, Agriculture and Industries Department)' be refused.

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (Mr. J. T. Donovan): I fancy that this motion has been moved on a misunderstanding. The staff shown as temporary staff is the staff which was voted by the Council last year. At that time it could have been made permanent, but as the Retrenchment Committee was coming on, we decided that we should await the result of the Retrenchment Committee before making it permanent in order that it might be all the more easy to remove it. Now we are considering it along with the report of the Retrenchment Committee and a decision will be come to shortly.

The motion was put and lost.

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: I move that the demand of Rs. 6,000 for temporary establishment under the head "Civil Secretariat—Agriculture and Industries Department" be reduced by Rs. 4,000.

The only point in my motion is that last year it was Rs. 2,000 and it has been increased this year to Rs. 6,000. Therefore, my suggestion is that the demand be reduced by Rs. 4,000 in view of the Recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee.

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: As a matter of fact, this is a mistake of the Accountant-General and if the Hon'ble Member will look to the supplementary budget, to which I refer, he will find that a provision of Rs. 3,625 has been made and taking this with Rs. 2,000 we get to Rs. 5,625. As the staff was not employed for the full 12 months, the difference is explained.

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 6,000 under the head '22G.—Agriculture and Industries—Temporary Establishment' be reduced to Rs. 2,000."

The following motions were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 61,000 under the head '22G.—Agriculture and Industries Department' be reduced by Rs. 50,000."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand for Rs. 61,000 for the Agriculture and Industries Department' under the head '22.—General Administration—Civil Secretariat' be reduced by Rs. 19,200."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA and Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand for Rs. 9,000 for the Registrar, Finance, Commerce and Marine Departments, under the head '22.—General Administration—Civil Secretariat,' be refused."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 9,000 under the head '22G.—Civil Secretariat—Registrar, Finance Department' be reduced by Rs. 600."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand for Rs. 2,21,828 for clerks under the head '22.—General Administration—Civil Secretariat—Finance, Commerce and Marine Departments' be reduced by Rs. 21,000."

The following motion standing in the name of Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 2,50,000 under the head "22G.—Finance, Commerce and Marine Departments' be reduced by Rs. 52,000."

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I formally move that the demand for Rs. 2,50,000 under the head "22G.—Civil Secretariat—Finance, Commerce, etc., Departments" be reduced by Rs. 9,000.

MEMBER in charge of FINANCE, COMMERCE, and MARINE DEPARTMENTS (the Hon'ble Mr. J. Donald): The Registrar in the Finance Department is somewhat different from those of the other departments. He has, for example, to look after the accounts of the whole Secretariat. The question of his retrenchment depends on the constitution of the Secretariat which is under consideration in connection with the report of the Retrenchment Committee. Therefore, it must be left for the present.

The motion was put and lost.

The following motions were, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: "That the demand for Rs. 16,000 on account of travelling allowance under the head '22.—General Administration (22G.—Civil Secretariat, Finance, Commerce and Marine Departments)' be reduced by Rs. 8,000."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 16,000 under the head '22G.—Finance, Commerce and Marine Departments—Allowances—Hill allowances' be refused."

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 16,000 for Hill allowance under the head '22G" be reduced by Rs. 8,000.

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand of Rs. 16,000 for Hill allowance under the head 'Finance, Commerce and Marine Departments—Allowances' be reduced to Rs. 10,000."

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: "That the demand for Rs. 26,800 on account of house-rent and other allowances under the head '22.—General Administration (22G.—Civil Secretariat, Finance, Commerce and Marine Departments)' be refused."

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand for Rs. 59,000 for allowance under the head '22.—General Administration—Civil Secretariat' be reduced by Rs. 19,000."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 75,000 for contingencies under the head "22.—General Administration—Civil Secretariat—Finance, Commerce and Marine Departments" be reduced by Rs. 10,000.

My simple point is that so far as Commerce and Marine Departments are concerned nothing has been done for the country and so there ought not to be so much money as Rs. 75,000 spent on contingencies by those Departments.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: If the Hon'ble Member will look at the estimates of previous years, he will see that we have already made a cut. We have gone down by Rs. 12,000 as compared with the actuals of 1921-22. The question of contingencies, as I have explained already, is under careful examination. This demand applies to all departments of the Secretariat and not to the Finance, Commerce and Marine Departments only.

The motion was put and lost.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 23,885 under the head "22G.—Civil Secretariat—Establishment of Bengali Translator" be reduced by Rs. 3,885.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I think that the member has probably forgotten that in last August this Council sanctioned the revision of pay of the establishment of the Bengali Translator at a cost of Rs. 3,325. That had effect only for a part of the year. Therefore, the total cost for the next year is naturally larger.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Fanindralal De Bahadur was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for the pay of the clerks in the Translator's Department under the head '22G.' be reduced by Rs. 3,000."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 2,000 for revision, Librarian, under the head "22.—General Administration—Civil Secretariat" be reduced by half.

My simple point is this. There is a Translator and there should not be a different person as Librarian. The functions may be combined in the same man and a retrenchment effected. Therefore, I propose that the amount demanded should be reduced by half.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It cannot be put in that form. You must mention the figure—Rs. 1,000.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I propose that the demand be reduced by Rs. 1,000.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter): Perhaps Babu Annada Charan Dutta is not aware that the Librarian is a hard worked officer. If he will come to me in office, I will show him the nature of the Librarian's work. The Librarian has nothing to do with the Translator's office.

The motion was put and lost.

The following motions were, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 15,55,000 under the head '22.—General Administration—Civil Secretariat' be reduced by Rs. 4,55,900."

Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY: "That the demand of Rs. 15,55,000 under the head '22G.—Civil Secretariat' be reduced by Rs. 1,22,000."

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand under the head '22.—General Administration—Civil Secretariat' be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 15,55,000 under the head '22G.—Civil Secretariat' be reduced by Rs. 77,750."

The following motions were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 15,55,000 under the head '22G.—Civil Secretariat' be reduced by Rs. 15,500."

Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 15,55,000 under the head '22G.—Civil Secretariat' be reduced by Re. 1 only."

The following motions were, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the demand under the head '22G.—Civil Secretariat' for items other than travelling allowances be reduced by Re. 1."

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: "That the demand for Travelling Allowance in the Board of Revenue, under the head '22H' be reduced by Rs. 1,500."

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur and Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 1,250 for Hill Allowance in Board of Revenue under the head '22H' be refused."

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 1,250 under the head '22H.—Board of Revenue—Hill Allowances' be reduced by Rs. 250."

The following motions were, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 600 for hill journey charges under '22H.—Board of Revenue—Contingencies' be refused."

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: "That the demand for Rs. 10,923 on account of pay of clerks under '22.—General Administration (22H.—Board of Revenue)' be reduced by Rs. 8,000."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 12,990 for establishment for management of private estates under the head "22.—General Administration—Board of Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 10,000.

I have got to remark this. In estates belong to the Court of Wards formerly the charge was 3 per cent. and it has now been raised to 3·5 per cent. So, the demand can be cut down by Rs. 10,000.

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [Land Revenue] (Mr. M. C. McAlpin): I oppose this motion. At first sight it would appear that there is a mistake in the budget. This is not so. The change is due to the transfer of five clerks from the main establishment of the Board of Revenue to the establishment for management of private estates. In the budget estimate for 1922-23 the total pay of the clerks includes the pay of the five clerks mentioned by me, whereas in the budget for 1923-24 the pay of the five clerks is shown separately under the head "Establishment for management of Private Estates." The present estimate under the head "Establishment" is Rs. 48,000 plus Rs. 10,932 on account of the pay of the five wards clerks, thus showing an increase of roughly, Rs. 6,800, which is solely due to the increase in the pay of clerks.

The motion was put and lost.

The following motions were, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 82,000 under the head '22.—General Administration—Board of Revenue' be reduced by Rs. 25,000."

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand under the head 'Board of Revenue' be reduced by Rs. 10,000."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 1,77,390 for clerks under the head '22J.—Commissioners' be reduced by Rs. 64,771 by disallowing the new posts proposed to be created."

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: "That the demand for the pay of clerks, under the head '22J.—Commissioners' be reduced by Rs. 10,000."

The following motion was, by leave of the Council withdrawn:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 1,77,390 under the head "22J.—Commissioners—Clerks' be reduced by Rs. 7,390."

The following motions were, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 2,208 under the head '22J.—Commissioners—Temporary Establishment' be refused."

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: "That the demand for Travelling Allowance under the head '22J.—Commissioners' be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 3,240 under the head '22J.—Commissioners—Purchase and keep of Elephants' be refused."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: "That the demand for Rs. 2,73,000 for the pay of establishment allowances and contingencies, etc., under the head '22J.—Commissioners' be refused."

Mr. S. M. BOSE: I move that the demand for Rs. 2,73,000 (voted) under head "22J.—Commissioners—for salaries, establishment, etc." be reduced by Rs. 1,63,800.

My point is this that out of the five, the staff of the three officers could be reduced. I want to reduce the whole sum by the pay of three out of the five, i.e., Rs. 1,63,800. I know that it would not be an easy matter to do away with the staff of three out of five, but I hope that Government will be pleased to take into account the recommendations made by the Retrenchment Committee and our views. I trust that at an early date some amount of reduction will be made in the staff.

The following motions were, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

D. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: "That the demand for Rs. 2,73,000 on account of salaries, etc., under the head '22.—General Administration (22J.—Commissioners)' be reduced by Rs. 1,50,000."

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA and Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 50,000 on account of steamboat establishment under the head '22.—General Administration (22J.—Commissioners)' be refused."

Mr. S. R. DAS: "That the demand for Rs. 3,23,000 under the head '22J.—Commissioners' be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000."

Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY: "That the demand for Rs. 3,23,000 under the head '22J.—Commissioners' be reduced by Rs. 1,23,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 3,23,000 under the head "22J.—Commissioners" be reduced by Rs. 10,000.

Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur: My motion was meant, as is evident from its wording, for a discussion of the question and for inviting the attention of the Government to the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee. Of course there was a Committee for considering this question of which I had the honour of being a member. The Committee did not come to any conclusion, and the proceedings were adjourned *sine die*. Now, in view of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, I think that at least some posts can be abolished and the posts of two Commissioners can be conveniently retained. That is a practical proposition, which I hope the Government will consider when the whole report of the Retrenchment Committee is placed under consideraton by the Government. In view of what His Excellency and the Hon'ble Members belonging to the Government have said, that they will consider every suggestion of the Retrenchment Committee, I beg to withdraw my motion.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 3,23,000 under the head '22J.—Commissioners' be reduced by Re. 1 only."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: The underlying idea of these amendments is the abolition of the Commissoners of Divisions. This question is a very old one. We have discussed this question by way of resolutions in this Council. Government cannot very well say that they have been surprised and that owing to the belated production of the Retrenchment Committee's report they could not come to any conclusion.

This question being an old one, there is no earthly reason why a decision was not arrived at on this subject. Notice of these amendments has been given in order that the point should be decided at once either

this way or that way, instead of allowing it to hang fire. Some explanation is necessary, and I therefore urge that some of these amendments should be accepted.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: I should have thought that, in view of what I said in the budget debate, none of these amendments would have been moved. The matter is now under the consideration of Government. The Government cannot come to a decision at once. So, I oppose the motion.

The motion standing in the name of Mr. S. M. Bose was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The motion standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq was then put and lost.

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till 3 P.M., on Tuesday, the 20th March, 1923, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 20th March, 1923, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President in the Chair, the four Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council, the three Hon'ble Ministers, and 90 nominated and elected members.

The Budget for the year 1923-24.

Demands for Grants.

22.—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

The following motions were, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 1,20,000 under the head '22K.—General Establishment—Collectors and Magistrates' be reduced by Rs. 20,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 25,06,500 under the head '22K.—General Establishment—Deputy and Sub-Deputy Magistrates' be reduced by Rs. 20,65,000."

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: "That the demand under the head '22.—District Administration—K to M—for the provision of the pay and establishment of Circle Officers' be refused."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 25,000 under the head '22K.—General Establishment—Steam-launch, boat and elephant establishment' be refused."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 25,000 for steam-launch, boat and elephant establishment under the head '22.—General Administration—General Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 12,500."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 25,000 under the head '22K.—General Establishment—Steam-launch, boat and elephants' be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand for Rs. 4,77,000 for travelling allowance under the head "22.—General Administration (22K—General Establishment)" be reduced by Rs. 2,38,500.

It is admitted on all hands that the amount of money spent on travelling allowance is much too high. The Retrenchment Committee have made certain recommendations in this connection, but I wish that the principle which should be accepted is that, generally speaking, travelling allowances should be reduced by half the amount wherever they may occur. In this case also I make the same recommendation; that is, that double first-class travelling allowance, which is now allowed to officers of Government, be substituted by single first class; the amount may thus be reduced by one-half. Then, also in many cases officers who travel first class may be compelled to travel second class. Only District Officers should travel first class and Deputy Magistrates and other subordinate officials may very well travel second class. There would be no loss of dignity and prestige if the subordinate officials were compelled to travel second class. If that is done, then the travelling allowance under the head may very well be reduced by the amount I have suggested.

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur was, in the absence of the mover, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 4,77,000 under the head '22K.—General Establishment—Travelling Allowance' be reduced to Rs. 3,50,000."

Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY: I move that the demand for Rs. 4,77,000 for travelling allowances under head "22K.—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000.

The economic conditions of the country, as they appear at the present moment, are far from encouraging. Distress prevails all along the line and it is incumbent and imperative on Government to cut down all superfluous expenditure to the greatest possible extent. It should be the aim and endeavour of those who hold the purse-strings of our Public Exchequer to save as much as possible of the money of the poor tax-payers of this Presidency, who have already felt the pinch of poverty to such an extent that they are driven almost to the verge of despair. It is perhaps admitted on all hands that there is much scope and room for economy under this head. It is undeniable that over-zealous officers under the existing conditions make more tours than what is actually necessary and spend more money than what is warranted for the purpose of real supervision. The prescribed scale of travelling allowance on the other hand is lavish and extravagant. True it is that officials must travel from time to time and visit all the centres of work within their respective jurisdictions in order to be able to exercise efficient control over their

subordinates and their work; true it is that it is absolutely necessary in the interests of good administration that responsible officials should visit the different centres of activities of their subordinates from time to time, to gain a first-hand knowledge of the existing order of things; but there must be a limit to everything. At all events, such tours as partake the nature of a costly excursion and such liberal scale of travelling allowance as exceeded by far the actuals, can no longer be tolerated. It is high time that unprofitable expenditure in this direction should be discouraged. Sir, I have no doubt that the Hon'ble Member in charge of the department concerned is well aware of the real situation, and as a veteran who has a full grasp of the subject with which he is connected, should certainly know where the knife should be applied. The expenditure has increased to such an extent that it is impossible for our Government to bear it any longer; and I am sure, Sir, the Hon'ble Member would earn the gratitude of the poor people of Bengal if he is able to effect a substantial reduction in this respect. I am the last person, however, to suggest any uprooting of the existing system altogether in one day, but let there be some reasonable reduction, so that the people of Bengal may take courage and they may feel that Government is really anxious to cut down such superfluous expenditure as it can possibly do away with, without minimizing the importance of any department or reducing its efficiency to any extent.

I therefore commend my motion to the consideration of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the department concerned.

The following motions were, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: "That the demand of Rs. 4,77,000 for Travelling Allowances under the head '22K.—District Administration—General Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 77,000."

Mr. RAZAUR RAHMAN KHAN: "That the demand of Rs. 4,77,000 for Travelling Allowance under the head '22K.—General Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 50,000."

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 4,77,000 under head '22.—General Administration—District Administration' be reduced by Rs. 40,000 from the provision for travelling allowance of the general establishment."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 4,77,000 under the head '22K.—General Establishment—Travelling Allowance' be reduced by Rs. 15,000"

Mr. W. L. TRAVERS: I confess that I cannot understand the mentality of the hon'ble members who have moved these amendments. I do not believe that undue economy in this direction is economy at all. I

believe that it will lead to an enormous loss of efficiency. District Officers of all grades are at the present moment confined to their offices far too much. What is wanted is not less touring but more touring. Floods, scarcity, disease, the improvement of water-supply and improvement in a hundred directions are most desirable—all these and many more demand the attention, the inquiry and the advice of District Officers of all grades. The only way in which District Officers can get into touch with the real needs of the people is by touring. Yet some hon'ble members propose motions for reduotion of the touring grant. I ask all members of this Council, who have any real interest in the needs of the peasant and the raiyat in the countryside, to oppose these motions for reduction of this grant.

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: Mr. Travers has questioned the mentality of the movers for bringing forward such amendments. Perhaps he did not care to listen to the speech of the Hon'ble the Finance Member when he had announced, on behalf of Government, that he had already reduced Rs. 3 lakhs from the amount of travelling allowance provided in the last year's budget, and further assured us that he would reduce another Rs. 2½ lakhs from this year's budget. Of course, the Retrenchment Committee recommended a reduction of Rs. 7 lakhs; but I have referred already to the assurance given by the Hon'ble the Finance Member which shows that Government also have appreciated that there is a waste in this direction and that retrenchment is possible. I think, therefore, that no question of mentality of any member of this House should be brought forward for bringing any motions under this head. (Hear, hear!)

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: We have been hearing too much about the mentality of the members including myself——

Mr. PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. E. A. Cotton): Indu Bhushan Babu you have a motion under this head.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I desire to speak on these motions, but I was complaining about the question of mentality that is being flung about in the Council.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not understand that your mentality is in question!

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: What I want to say about what Mr. Travers has said is that we do not want that less touring should be indulged in, but we want that the expenses should be cut down. We know from experience that many officers of Government who draw first class allowances do actually travel in lower classes. When members of the Legislative Council have been asked to charge the fares for the class

in which they actually travel, it is up to the Government that they should follow that example and make a rule that Government officers should charge fares of the class in which they actually travel. I hope the Hon'ble the Finance Member would accept the suggestion and amend the Civil Service Regulations accordingly.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. J. Donald): There is much to be said both for the views put forward by Mr. Travers as well as for the other side; this provision is one which can probably submit to less reduction than any others. It is for district work where most of the work is done by road and river, and as had been stated in the report of the Retrenchment Committee some of the mileage and boat allowances are at present inadequate. We are trying to make as much retrenchment as possible, but under this head I do not think it will be possible to effect a reduction of the same amount as may be under other heads. We must allow for a considerable amount of travelling for District Officers and we must encourage touring as far as possible; at the same time however, we must ensure that the work done is really commensurate with the expenditure incurred and money is not wasted or expended needlessly. As I have said before, we are trying to reduce the expenditure on travelling allowance as far as we can. Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta would give two fares of the class in which the officer actually travels, the Retrenchment Committee's suggestion is to give one and three-fifths of the fare. I am at present considering this matter. The question of mileage and classification of travelling allowances is also under consideration, and there is already a file on the subject which I have just sent in to the office with a note on this very point. Therefore, I repeat what I said before—leave this matter to us. We shall reduce the expenses on travelling allowance generally. As Rai Fanindralal De Bahadur has said, we expect to reduce Rs. 2½ lakhs this year on the budget provision and we have already effected a reduction of Rs. 3 lakhs compared with last year's budget. We are doing a good deal towards reduction in this direction by amending the rules. The whole matter is being worked out in accordance with the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee and I must oppose the motions at the present time.

The motions standing in the names of Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea and Raja Manmatha Nath Ray Choudhury were then put and lost.

The following motion, standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq was, in the absence of the mover, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 26,000 under the head '22K.—General Administration—House Rent and other allowances' be reduced by Rs. 6,000."

Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY: I move that the demand for Rs. 3,40,000 for diet and travelling allowances to witnesses

under the head "22K.—General Administration" be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000.

This is a demand which, I am afraid, Government cannot justify. I say so both on grounds of equity as well as of economy. It is no doubt based on a long-standing practice, but because the practice is old we cannot spare it the condemnation it deserves, when it is found, after careful scrutiny, that the principles which are involved in it are either defective or unsound. Is it just, Sir, I ask in all seriousness, to pay for the expenses of witnesses on the prosecution side and at the same time deny the privilege to the defence witnesses in ordinary criminal cases? If it is important to see that the guilty is punished for the maintenance of law and order, is it not equally important to see that the innocent do not suffer the humiliation and hardships of an unjust conviction? At any rate, having regard to the financial stringency, I think we should effect some economy under this head and there is scope for it. In my opinion, Sir, a Government which, on account of their embarrassments, is actually hesitating to spend Rs. 4 lakhs a year to give effect to a scheme of separation of the judicial and executive functions, for which the people are crying to the top of their voice should think thrice before asking the authority of this Council to spend Rs. 3,40,000 for diet and travelling allowance of witnesses. I would, in fact, have proposed to refuse the demand *in toto* but it is never my intention to uproot anything in a day. I shall be quite contented if the Hon'ble Member would assure me that he would try to effect a reasonable reduction under this head.

With these words, I formally move my motion. But if I find that the Hon'ble Member has come forward with an assurance to the effect that it will be his best endeavour to cut down the expenditure as much as possible I may not press it.

The following motion standing in the name of Mr. Razaur Rahman Khan was, in the absence of the mover, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 3,40,000 for diet and travelling allowances to witnesses under head '22K.—General Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000."

Mr. S. M. BOSE: I move that the demand under the head "22K.—General Establishment" for diet and travelling allowance to witnesses be reduced by Rs. 50,000.

I shall state my reasons very briefly. The demand for 1922-23 was put at Rs. 2,96,000, whereas in this year's budget the amount is put down at Rs. 3,40,000, i.e., there is an increase of Rs. 44,000. I see no ground for this increase. There has been no increase in railway fares and other expenses so far as I know, and I do not know whether it is expected that a large number of serious offences will be committed in the new year. It is true that the elections are likely to be keenly fought, but I do not think there is any reason to believe that it will lead to any murder or bloodshed.

(Hear, hear!) Then, my next ground is that it is a matter of common knowledge that large sums of money are wasted in bringing down men to give evidence for the accused in all serious cases at Government expenses. A heavy list is usually filed on his behalf and in almost every case not one of the witnesses is actually called. Under the rules framed under section 544 of the Criminal Procedure Code, the courts are authorized to pay all expenses for travelling allowance and diet to those who are called for the defence in cases for trial of non-bailable offences and where the prosecution is instituted by the State. These are, no doubt, excellent rules framed so far back as 1895. But I submit that these rules need revision now, having regard to the abuse and waste of public money that have followed. Further, in these cases there is hardly any direction left to the court to allow or not the expenses, for practically every witness cited by the defence must be summoned and his expenses paid. I therefore suggest that the rules now in force be altered so that the court may in some way limit the number of those who are cited at Government expense and I am sure that such an alteration, if made, will stop the notorious waste of money. I hope that this matttr will receive the earnest attention of the Hon'ble Member in charge.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I have to oppose both the motions (hear, hear!) except to the extent that the Hon'ble Member may himself see his way to cut down the charge. Certain statements are made which are hard upon the witnesses who have got to dance attendance in the courts. Perhaps the experience of my friend, Mr. S. M. Bose, does not extend beyond the four limits of Calcutta. We, who come from outside, know how badly the witnesses are treated. They are summoned at the sweet will of the parties and sometimes at the instance of the courts, police officers and prosecutors. Processes are issued for the attendance of witnesses from any place and for every place. They are not allowed their proper travelling expenses. Nor are they allowed their proper diet expenses, and almost none in the case of defence witnesses. I am simply surprised that my friend, Mr. Bose, has such an idea of his sense of duty towards the defence that he would really cut down the right which has been given to it by the Criminal Procedure Code.

Mr. S. M. BOSE: No.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: He would do so, because according to him the witnesses who are summoned for the defence are, more often than not, not examined. In practice, it has been found that it is only in a few police cases that the courts grant some sort of scanty allowance to the prosecution witnesses. So far as the defence witnesses are concerned very little is allowed to them, though there is a rule that in warrant cases the witnesses so summoned would have to be paid their expenses.

The money is not spent improperly under the head. If really some amount of justice be done to the defence witnesses or to the witnesses summoned by the parties, as is extended only to witnesses in police cases, I think double the amount would not be sufficient. So my friend need not be anxious that the money will be misspent. It is also a curious and significant thing that people who do not grudge any amount of travelling expenses being taken by Government officials would be so chary in giving the just expenses to people who come from the interior to depose in a case. My friend has perhaps in view of the fact that in cases tried by the Sessions Court the accused is given a chance of putting in a list of witnesses whom he wishes to examine and if they appear in the Sessions trial, they are usually paid some amount of their expenses, though in the majority of the cases no defence evidence is led for the sake of not losing the right of reply. In this case my friend's observation might apply, but that is a point which is to be decided by the lawyer in charge and witnesses are given up as advised by people of my friend's class. He need not complain about this, because the witnesses in a summons case have also the right as witnesses in other cases. It is the duty of the prosecution to make out its case, and it is in such cases only that defence witnesses are required. This option is given to accused by law, and unless the law is changed nothing else can be done. If no expenses be given, then witnesses will be unwilling to attend after the first summons and if processes are taken later on, much more delay will be caused. On these grounds I oppose the omission of this item.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I beg to oppose both the motions. Having breathed the air of courts for a long time, perhaps I may be privileged to say that the diet expenses allowed to witnesses are not sufficient for the purpose. Whenever the bill is submitted to the court, the court as a rule examines the cost charged and as a rule allows only the bare charges. Now, we have seen that these rules are sometimes infringed, but as a matter of fact the witnesses are often called from some distant places and they have to undergo a good deal of hardship. I know also from my experience that these witnesses are not sometimes called by the defence pleader. The matter depends upon various circumstances and no complaint ought, therefore, be made that the witnesses who have not been examined are not entitled to get charges. It is necessary for the defence to call witnesses; it is necessary also for the defence to watch the evidence that is produced by the prosecution; and if the prosecution fails, there is no necessity for adducing evidence. It will not be wise for the Council to limit the amount which has been provided in the budget estimates. Even if it is a large amount, this amount must be allowed for the vindication of the rights of the accused. It is only proper and fair that Government should meet the expenses.

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-Rahim): As regards the excess of Rs. 44,000, that is due to the revised scale that we have introduced. It was considered very carefully whether the scale that was allowed for diet allowances was sufficient or not, and there could be no doubt that the scale was insufficient owing to the rise of prices which has caused so much difficulty nowadays. Witnesses even now do not receive anything like liberal allowances, and I do not think that this demand can be considered to be unreasonable.

As regards the question of policy, it is of considerable importance that an accused person should be allowed every opportunity of summoning witnesses; it has been the practice for a very long time, certainly as long as I can remember, and I believe, much before that, that in Sessions cases the Government should meet the expenses of the defence witnesses. Of course it often happens that the witnesses whom the accused persons summon for the Sessions court, are not actually examined, having regard to the course which the trial takes. The question raised requires considerable amount of investigation; and in a matter of this importance the High Court and the Government of India would have to be referred to as to whether we can alter the policy as regards Government paying the expenses for summoning witnesses for the defence to the Court of Sessions. I would therefore ask the mover not to press a matter of this sort; indeed it may not lead to a proper trial of criminal cases if we were to take any such hasty step.

Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY: In view of the statement made by the Hon'ble Member, I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The motion of Mr. S. M. Bose was also withdrawn.

The following motion standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 15,900 under the head '22K.—General Establishment—Fees for copies' be reduced by Rs. 1,400."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I move that the demand for Rs. 50,800 for law charges under "22.—General Administration—District Administration—General Establishment" be reduced by Rs. 10,000.

If we were to consider and add up the amounts of money which have been asked for under "Law Charges" under different heads, we will find that it really comes up to a very big amount. These amounts include pleaders' fees for both criminal and civil courts, and also include the big amount which is required by the High Court. Any person who has practical experience of these matters knows and I believe that if

the Legal Remembrancer goes into this matter deeper, he will find that there are several items which can be very easily cut down or reduced. These law charges, as I take it, come under various heads—payment of the court-fees in a very few cases, and fees to other people who are engaged in conducting certain cases on behalf of Government. So there is ample room and scope for reducing these amounts by Rs. 10,000. Law charges have been eating into the vitals of the people of Bengal, and there is no reason why Government should also not cut down these law charges. I press this motion for the acceptance of this House.

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [LAND REVENUE] (Mr. M. C. McAlpin): There is a little misapprehension as to what this heading actually means. The mover, I think, mentioned that this includes the fees paid to pleaders. As a matter of fact, this head does not include fees paid to pleaders. This heading is intended to meet the charges incurred by Government in connection with civil suits in which Government in concerned, such as travelling allowances of witnesses and other expenditure of a contingent nature, and mainly for amounts decreed against Government. In these circumstances it is a guess, but it is Rs. 10,000 less than the budget provision for the year 1922-23, and I venture to suggest, therefore, that though it is a guess, it cannot be further reduced because if we have more money decreed against us during the year, the expenditure will have to be met somehow by reappropriation. I therefore oppose the motion.

The motion was put and lost.

The following amendments standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq were, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 60,000 under the head '22K—General Establishment—Process-serving charges' be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

"That the demand for Rs. 3,744 under the head '22K.—General Establishment—Purchase of Books' be reduced by Rs. 144."

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 67,11,000 under the head "22.—General Administration—District Administration" be reduced by Rs. 10,000, from the provision of Rs. 1,85,000 for remuneration to copyists of the General Establishment.

The actuals under this head for the year 1921-22 were Rs. 1,70,565 and the budget provision for the current year was Rs. 1,70,000. I do not understand why for the next year provision has been made for Rs. 1,85,000, that is an increase of Rs. 15,000. The practice in these cases, so far as I understand, is to take the average of the three previous years. This sum of Rs. 1,85,000 is not the average of the three previous years. It may be said that the remuneration that is paid to copyists is recovered in the shape of copying fees realised from the parties. Even in that case I do not understand why an extra provision should be made.

I believe that it may be reduced by Rs. 10,000 leaving a margin of Rs. 5,000 for the current year to provide for extras.

Mr. M. C. McALPIN: The amount in the budget is that estimated by the Accountant-General and accepted by Government as the amount required for the forthcoming year. There is no point whatever in making a reduction; as the mover has said, this represents two-thirds of the fees paid by the parties, and the copyists get this two-thirds. I therefore oppose this motion.

The motion was put and lost.

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 67,11,000 under the head '22.—General Administration—District Administration' be reduced by Rs. 10,000, from the provision of Rs. 12,000 for rewards under the detailed head "General Establishment—Contingencies."

A reference to the budget will show that the actuals under this head for the year 1921-22 were only Rs. 1,280, in the budget of the current year it is only Rs. 1,000, and this year this provision has been increased to Rs. 12,000. I fail to understand why this increase is at all necessary. I made inquiries at the office and came to learn that out of this Rs. 12,000, a sum of Rs. 10,000 represents rewards for proficiency in oriental languages. In this connection, Sir, I may say that in previous years we found that this amount used to be placed under a separate head "Miscellaneous." It never found a place under the head "General Establishment" and I do not know why this change has been made this year.

Turning now to the question of proficiency in Oriental languages, I would like to make a few observations. Evidently, these rewards are given, so far as I understand, to gazetted officers who pass certain examinations in Oriental languages and my information is that by passing an examination of this sort an officer earns something like Rs. 1,000 in lump.

I want to know whether the passing of these examinations is of any use to the administration as a whole. I do not know how the examinees are tested and whether they go in for any university examination or whether any other form of examination is prescribed for them. Even taking for granted that proficiency in Oriental languages is necessary for good administration, I would like to know whether that is the case at all. You will find, Sir, that in almost all the district courts there is an interpreter for certain languages who explains the statements of witnesses to the presiding judges or magistrates. Then why is it necessary for the officers to pass examinations and why should the Council pass a grant of Rs. 12,000 for rewards to them? I do not think that the so-called proficiency is of any use so far as the administration of the country

is concerned. If that be the case, I do not understand why public money should be wasted in this fashion only to help a few officers.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: I oppose the motion because rewards are an incentive to learning the various languages of India. Officers who pass examinations, say, in Santhali, in Pahari, in Bhutia and other languages, become useful members of the service. If an officer is placed to administer a district, for example, whose language he does not understand, he will not be of much use to the people whom he has to govern. In this way, Sir, rewards offer an incentive to officers to learn Oriental languages. The apprehension in mind of the mover is that the examination is nothing. I think this apprehension is groundless and it will not hold water because these examinations are a severe task and can only be passed by an officer who knows the language thoroughly well.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I beg to oppose this motion. It is a matter of great regret that we no longer get officers and scholars like Sir William Jones or Colebrooke. Their names have gone deep into the hearts of the people. That class of British officials has unfortunately passed away, to the detriment of the public service and to the detriment of good feeling between the rulers and the ruled. It is very desirable, Sir, that our rulers should be conversant with our vernaculars and that they should read the literature of the country. Without this there cannot grow up mutual good feeling and with a view to this I am of opinion that rewards should be given to officers for learning the vernacular and literature of this country.

Rai Sahib PANCHANAN BARMA: Magistrates and District Officers have to travel throughout the district in their charge, and if they are to have a first-hand knowledge of the grievances of the people whom they are to rule, it is obvious that they should learn the language of the people. It is said that the examination is merely nominal, but still it is an examination all the same and they have to prepare for it, so I think it is fair that we should give an incentive in the shape of rewards to these officers to learn Oriental languages. I therefore oppose the motion.

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: I fail to understand how anyone, having regard to the fact that especially at the present time when the Legislative Council has been so much extended and we are all under a new regime and while we have a mixture of various classes talking together, can oppose a motion of this sort which has for its object the encouragement of learning the various languages of the province. I know I have myself missed a great treat not being able to understand the interesting and intellectual speeches delivered by my friend, Shah Syed Emdadul Haq, many times in this Council. I missed a great

treat indeed. I wish that in my younger days somebody had held out an incentive to me to the vernaculars. In that case I would have benefited very much had I been able to understand the interesting discussions in the vernacular of my Indian friends. I oppose the motion.

MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT and POLITICAL DEPARTMENTS (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): The mover has already explained that this is not a new item. In previous years it appeared under the head "47.—Miscellaneous" and the amount approximately is the same as then appeared under that head. The rewards are for two kinds of examinations: firstly in tribal languages. There are certain dialects in some districts and it is desirable that an officer of Government who is going to do his work there, should know the dialect that is actually spoken in the district. It is necessary, therefore, to provide an incentive to officers stationed in that district to study the language. No officer can go up for an examination unless he is actually serving in the district in which the language is spoken, and no officer can go up for examination unless the Commissioner is satisfied that it will increase his usefulness as a Government officer. I think the mover can hardly say that these examinations do not bring a return to Government. The other class of examination is the reward for proficiency in classical languages of this province. I am surprised at the low material view the mover has taken with regard to this. We are always being told that it is a great pity that Government officers do not study the classical literature of Bengal and try to understand the spirit underlying it. The mover, because he cannot point to returns in pounds, shillings and pence, says it is a waste of money to spend Rs. 12,000 to learn the culture of Bengal. My only regret is that owing to the great increase of work of Government officers, they do not have the time that they used to have to study these languages. The mover also remarked in passing that the examinations are very easy to pass. That is not the experience of the candidates themselves. The examinations are held by a board of examiners presided over by a man, who is himself a very great scholar in these classical languages. The examinations—I have never been through one myself—are exceedingly difficult. I would ask the House to reject this motion.

The motion was put and lost.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 16,000 under the head "22K.—General Establishment" for steam-launch contingencies be refused.

This is one of a series of amendments which I want to move in connection with steam-launch contingencies. Unfortunately I was not present when the subject came up, but as it is the last chance, I should like to say a few words to justify my pressing this amendment before the

House. Sir, I do not deny the necessity for steam-launches especially in Bengal where there are mighty rivers to cross and where officials may have occasion to go from one side of the river to another on inspection trips or similar purposes. Therefore, I do not object to steam-launches being kept by Government for Government purposes, but what I do object to is these launches being utilized as pleasure boats or for the purpose of picnic parties. It is a notorious fact that these steam-launches—at least some of them—are used for the purpose which I have mentioned. It is nothing but a sheer abuse of the facilities afforded by Government to their officials for whom these launches are meant. This is one of my reasons why I want to bring this matter before the Council. My second reason is that the method of the upkeep of these launches is not at all economical. Those who are in charge of steam-launches will be able to tell you that in some cases they are run on very expensive lines. I have been told that no less a sum than Rs. 200 per mensem is spent upon coal. I believe that the Council will agree with me that while these necessities should be attended to, the fact should not also be lost sight of that we have to run the Government on economic lines. These are my main reasons for moving this resolution.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENTS of REVENUE [LAND REVENUE] and IRRIGATION (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): My friend, Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur, seems to have a great knowledge of the use of steam-launches. I do not know what this means, it seems rather mysterious, but I have not had, even as a Member of Council, the good fortune to go on one of these pleasure trips of which Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur seems to be aware.

As regards the more economic use of the steam-boat establishment, I would point out to him that the whole question is under consideration, and until orders are passed on the proposals of the Retrenchment Committee it is impossible to give effect to any of these motions. Therefore, I am unable to accept this motion for reduction.

The motion was put and lost.

The following motions were, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 16,000 for steam-launch contingencies under the head '22.—General Administration—District Administration—General Establishment' be reduced by half."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 16,000 under the head '22K.—General Establishment—Steam-launch Contingencies' be reduced by Rs. 1,000."

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand for Rs. 37,700 under the head '22K.—General Establishment, other non-contract charges' be reduced by Rs. 15,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 37,700 under the head '22K.—General Establishment, other non-contract charges' be reduced by Rs. 2,700."

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 12,00,000 for contingencies, general establishment, under the head '22K' be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000."

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Satish Chandra Mukharji was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 2,03,779 under the head '22.—District Officers—Treasury Establishment—Clerks' be reduced by Rs. 25,000."

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: I move that the demand for compensation for dearness of food under the head "22L" be refused.

In no head of the budget has "dearness of food" been arranged for, except under this head. This is not the time, I think, for giving for dearness of food any compensation allowance, and so I move for this reduction.

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, FINANCE DEPARTMENT (Mr. A. Marr): This is a mistake; it should have appeared under house rent and other allowances.

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Satish Chandra Mukharji was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 4,02,933 under the head '22M.—Subdivisional Establishment—Clerks' be reduced by Rs. 2,50,000.'

The following motion was ruled out of order as no specific amount for reduction was mentioned:—

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 67,11,000 under the head '22.—General Administration—District Administration' be reduced by the amount which represents the pay of 16 additional clerks and 59 additional servants in the Subdivisional Establishment."

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: Before I move my motion I should like to know whether any new appointments have been made in the establishment.

Mr. M. C. McALPIN: There has been some change in the figures but no new hands have been taken.

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: Then I wish to withdraw my motion.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for the pay of clerks and servants under head 'Sub-divisional Establishment—22M' be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand for Rs. 33,000 for travelling allowance under the head "22.—General Administration (22M.—Sub-divisional Establishment)" be reduced by Rs. 16,500.

The principle underlying this motion is the same which underlies some of the other motions which I have already moved. I wish to reduce the travelling allowances under this head by half and I need not add anything to what I have already said.

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: I move that the demand for Rs. 33,000 under the head "22M.—Sub-divisional Establishment—Travelling Allowance" be reduced by Rs. 3,000.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: This item refers only to the travelling allowances of officers travelling by road. It is a very small sum and if it can be reduced it will be reduced. Meantime it must be there.

The motions were then put and lost.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu BHISHMADEV DAS: "That the demand of Rs. 5,86,500 under the head '22.—General Administration—Sub-Divisional Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 36,500."

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand under the head "22K to M—District Administration for Allowances and Contingencies" be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000.

The Retrenchment Committee have recommended a cut of Rs. 17 lakhs under the head allowances and contingencies. I propose that under the head District Administration charges——

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: Sir, may I rise to a point of order? There are about three heads mentioned in the hon'ble member's motion. We do not know from which head he proposes to make this cut.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Harendra Babu, your amendment covers a very wide ground. "22 K to M" is very vague. You must mention the definite head.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: The head appears on page 62 of the Civil Budget Estimate. May I amend it, Sir?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Very well.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I would put it in this way. I move that the demand of Rs. 5,27,000 under head "Allowances and Contingencies" be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000.

I only want that Rs. 2 lakhs should be cut down under the sub-heads of the District Administration charges. It does not require lynx eyes to see that although the Retrenchment Committee recommended a substantial reduction of expenditure on such items the provisions for allowances and contingencies are going to be further increased by Rs. 63,000 over and above the budget figures for 1922-23. I therefore consider it necessary to move this motion.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Indu Babu, as your motion as worded is out of order.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I only want a general discussion on the policy of the department.

Mr. PRESIDENT: But you must mention a definite head.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Very well, Sir, I will move it in the following form. I move that the demand of Rs. 67,11,000 under the head "22.—District Administration" be reduced by Rs. 3,00,000.

My motion is not only to make a proposal of reduction in the ordinarily heavy cost of administration, but also to protest against the policy of the administration which provides for an extraordinarily large number of extravagantly paid officers. Sir, in comparing the cost of administration in Bengal with other countries we find that though the average income of an individual in Bengal is barely £2 a year, the biggest paid officers in the administration get more than Rs. 5,000 per month. In countries like England or Australia where the average income is £40 a year per head, the highest paid officer does not get as much.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: On a point of order, Sir. The hon'ble mover is discussing the salary of the highest paid officers and I submit he is out of order.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I was listening to your speech, Indu Babu, and I cannot quite follow the relevancy of all this.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I was going to suggest, Sir, that in matters of District Administration if the highest posts which are now held by members of the Indian Civil Service are given to members of the Provincial Service, the cost would be cheaper. I think it is quite relevant.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: On a point of order, Sir. The salaries of the members of the Indian Civil Service are non-votable.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I am not going to suggest any reduction in the salary of any member of the Indian Civil Service.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I understood from your speech, Indu Babu, that you were comparing the salaries of the Executive Members with those of the Lord Chancellor and the Archbishop of Canterbury and that you were trying to show that they get less than the Executive Members. You must know that the salaries of the Executive Members are non-voted, and so are the salaries of the Lord Chancellor and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I was referring to the ordinary I. C. S. man and not to the ordinary members of the Executive Council. I would not touch upon the question of their salary. I am only criticizing the general policy of the present administration and I record my protest against that policy by suggesting that, in district charges, Provincial Service men drawing lesser pay and who have been doing district work very efficiently and well should be substituted for I.C.S. men. That is the main point that I wish to press on the attention of this Council and I have done so a number of times before. Looking over the Civil List I find that there are 144 I. C. S. men in Bengal and that for every I. C. S. officer we have got to keep two men for administrative work. The real figures are 202 per cent. That is an extravagant way of administering a province. It has been admitted by the Government that during the time of the war some districts were in charge of Provincial Service men and they have admitted in their Administration Report that these Provincial Service men did their work very well.

Mr. PRESIDENT: One moment, Indu Babu. Would you explain to me how these observations are relevant? Supposing you succeed in reducing this item by Rs. 3 lakhs that will not help you to get rid of the members of the Indian Civil Service.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: No, Sir. This is one of the points. There are other points. I will cite one instance. In my own district of Comilla when the permanent incumbent of the district went on leave a Provincial Service man was put in his place and he has been discharging his duties very well. In spite of that in the last *Calcutta Gazette* I find that a junior I.C.S. man has replaced the Provincial Service man.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: On a point of order, Sir, I am not able to follow the relevancy of this argument with the provisions of the Budget. Following Indu Babu's arguments we should increase the provisions of the budget and not decrease them.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have considered that question. I do not want to stifle discussion but it does not seem to be relevant upon this item. All

you want to say can be said on a resolution for the Indianisation of the Services. It does not seem to me to be at all relevant here. If you succeed in reducing the grant, you do not get anything further on the road along which you want to travel.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I should like to suggest to the Government to move the higher authorities to stop recruitment for the Indian Civil Service for a number of years. If we can cut the money to-day, the Government may hurry up with their process of Indianization. Then coming to the lower services, I find that the number of sub-deputy collectors has been increased to such an extent that in some places they do not find much work to do. They are even reported to be obstructing the work of other people, because they have no room to themselves. I have mentioned it before and I would seriously suggest to the Government that the recruitment to these services should be stopped and that some posts of the sub-deputy collector must be done away with.

Then I find that the number of circle officers has been increased a great deal. Sir, I had occasion to read a report, which, by the way, was supposed to be a confidential document, but I had access to it somehow—and it was mentioned there that the object of appointing these circle officers was to keep the ordinary village people in touch with the Government, or in other words, these appointments were made with political purposes. They were appointed more for political purposes than for anything else. At the same time I would like to suggest that there are any number of officers going about the country—Inspectors of Co-operative Societies, Industrial officers, Agricultural officers—and I do not think that the appointment of circle officers is at all needed for the development of union boards. What I suggest is that the number of circle officers should be reduced also.

Now that the new administration has run for two years, I would seriously suggest to Government that they should look to the whole question of the cost of administration of the country and suggest new schemes by which cheaper Indian service men might be utilized in place of a dearer European service.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the total demand of Rs. 7,34,820, for travelling allowances under the head '22.—General Administration' be reduced by Rs. 1,83,715."

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri was, by leaving of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand under the head '22K to M—District Administration' for items other than travelling allowances be reduced by Re. 1."

The following motion standing in the name of Maulvi Ekramul Huq was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 1,01,91,000 under the head '22.—General Administration' be reduced by Re. 1."

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I humbly submit that a member is entitled to criticize the system of administration of a district.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, order! You must not begin your speech by criticizing my ruling. I cannot allow it. I cannot have my ruling criticized.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I am not criticizing your ruling at all, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It sounded very like that, and it is not for the first time that you have done it.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I am not doing it now. What I say is this: supposing Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri's amendment which proposed a cut of Re. 1 only had been moved, he would have been entitled—as was meant by his motion—to criticize the general system of administration——

Mr. PRESIDENT: But that has been withdrawn.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: What I say is that he would have the right of donig so. I am not criticizing your ruling, but Sir, I would say that the system of District Administration is costly, but I do not agree with Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta when he says that the number of sub-deputy collecters should be reduced.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: May I explain Sir? I only said that the number of deputy collectors should be decreased.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I would go the other way and say that there should not be two or three classes of officers of the same standing and of the same education doing the same work. Such a system is not found in any other country. What I submit is this: in the Executive Service as well as in the Judicial Service there should not be a superior class and a subordinate class of officers, viz., Indian Civil Service, Provincial Service, and Subordinate Service. I submit that there should only be one cadre and there should be no subordinate officers doing the same work and having only a different name—Provincial Service men, Subordinate Executive Service, or Subordinate Judicial Service men. If that were clearly appreciated and there was one class of officers of two types, one Executive and one Judicial, then I submit a substantial reduction would be effected.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I beg to support Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta's motion.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Harendra Babu, you have already moved your motion. Are you going to speak on Indu Bhushan Dutta's motion as well?

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: My motion relates to specific reductions while Indu Babu's motion covers a wider field.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Very well, though it is rather unusual and you are taking an extra slice of time.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: The cost of general administration appears to be very high in Bengal—how exceedingly high it is would be seen when it is compared with the figures of the other provinces as quoted below:—

Name of Province.	Area.	Number of districts.	Number of subdivisions.	District charges.
	Square Miles.			Rs. Lakhs.
Madras ..	1,42,265	26	105	60·48
Bombay ..	1,23,114	27	215	32·50
Bengal ..	78,700	28	83	72·33

It will be understood that even the United Provinces where District Administration charges are apparently very heavy—nay reaches the highest figure in whole of India, viz., 106 lakhs—they do not really spend so much on the district and subdivisional officers and their establishments, if it is remembered that, whereas Bengal has got 28 districts and 83 subdivisions, the United Provinces have got to manage 48 districts and 309 subdivisions. It is absolutely necessary, therefore, that here these charges should be reduced as far as practicable.

Besides the excessively large number of officials and big establishments, one other thing to note in this connection is the disproportionately heavy expenditure on allowances and contingencies. Thus it will be seen that while Madras spends 14 lakhs and the United Provinces a little over 13 lakhs on allowances and contingencies under this sub-head, Bengal spends more than 17 lakhs of rupees on these items. Even more money is spent on travelling allowances in Bengal than in those provinces, although the area of the United Provinces is 1½ times more than that of Bengal and the area of Madras is twice as much.

Then, the institution of circle officers and the provision that has recently been made for appointing a number of such officers is, I think, another matter for retrenchment. The District Administration Committee (1913-14), presided over by the Hon'ble Mr. Levinge, no doubt recommended it, but anyone going through the report will not fail to see that it is a recommendation conceived in a spirit of distrust and is the outcome of a

policy which has been rendered obsolete by the Reforms. It is really a scheme to carry administration down to the ground and not to further or promote self-government. The supervision and control exercised by the district magistrate, the subdivisional officer, and the higher police officer is quite sufficient for all practical purposes. If the idea underlying the Reforms is really—as was stated by the illustrious authors of the Report on the Indian Constitutional Reforms—"that there should be as far as possible complete popular control in local bodies and the largest possible independence for them of outside control" such an institution "to control and guide panchayats, to exercise a close and careful supervision over their work" seems to be quite unnecessary and cannot but be called an anachronism after the Reforms. Then again, the circle system to be effective, must contemplate "that the circle officers should live in conveniently central places within their circles, which should be sufficiently small to enable them to come into contact with the panchayats and the leading residents of the unions." This means that there must be hundreds, if not thousands, of such officers to control the whole of rural Bengal. Now, if the Department of Local Self-Government and along with it every other department, such as the Co-operative Department, the Department of Agriculture, etc., demands its hundreds of officers, it will be simply impossible for the taxpayers of this province to bear such heavy burdens. The circle system, it must be admitted, prevails in many other major provinces, but there the circle officers have got to perform many important duties connected with the Land Revenue Department and consequent upon the decentralization or the break-up of the tauzi. Here, in Bengal, there is no such necessity for introducing the circle system.

Babu NIRODE BEHARY MULLICK: I rise to oppose Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta's motion. It has been said by Indu Babu that there should be Indianization of the Services, that is to say that work now done by members of the Civil Service should be performed by deputy collectors. Rightly or wrongly—I think more rightly than wrongly—the backward classes, who number about 10 millions in Bengal, maintain that their interests should not be left in the hands of these deputy collectors who are at present recruited from a certain class; secondly, it is the declared policy of the Government that there should not be any undue strengthening of the hands of any particular class in the administration. Sir, from this point of view, I object to the motion. Moreover, I maintain that there should be an increase in the number of deputy collectors and sub-deputy collectors so that the backward classes may have their due share in the administration.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I support the amendment moved by Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta and in doing so I have to make a few pertinent observations. We are harping too much on the backward classes. I do not know the meaning of the term backward class. Will

the Hon'ble Member in charge kindly define the same? I understand that those people are called backward who lack in education and in culture. It is a curious principle that in the administrative posts there should be a numerical proportion of officers representing different classes and that the backward people who are backward in education and culture should be given a share in the administration because they happen to number a million. Unless that sort of marvellous proposition is accepted, I do not believe that my friend, the champion of the backward classes in season and out of season, will be able to persuade at least a majority of the members of this Council to accept his suggestion. As to the point that the backward classes would rather prefer to be ruled by members of the Indian Civil Service recruited from an alien race than the deputy collectors, their own countrymen, it is not for me to say anything about that mentality. In any case, I can assure the House that at least we have got an instance in which Government has been rather a little too favourable towards a few of the people who have got some sort of education in these so-called backward classes. I hope, therefore, that at least in the hands of those gentlemen who have been appointed as deputy collectors from the family of the champion, they will receive sufficiently good treatment. Sub-deputy collectors are mainly engaged for the purpose of establishing union boards which can be done by any honorary agency, or to do some other small and unimportant work. I think it is really high time their number should be reduced.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: I beg to oppose these motions. As far as I have understood my friend, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, he does not object to the number of deputy collectors—he said this in so many words—but he objects to the number of sub-deputy collectors, the most hard-worked officers in the department. I beg to submit that whenever there is any work requiring hard labour and energy, it is the sub-deputy collector who is entrusted with such work. He has to go to out-of-the-way places, to the extreme interior of a district—in fact the sub-deputy collectors are the only officers who render all sorts of help to the District Officers, and to curtail the number of such useful officers, who are as good as the deputy collectors, is, I think, a proposition which no one can support.

Then, again, with regard to the question of District Officers being Europeans, I beg to submit that for a long time to come European officers are necessary. Indianization of the services is a thing, which, when deeply thought and pondered over, will appear to be not desirable at the present moment. If it is said that I am making an invidious distinction, I am prepared to risk that remark. When my friend over there, the representative of the depressed classes, said something to this effect, there was a howl of protest, but I beg to submit that the Muhammadans, the minorities, the depressed classes, and all those persons who inhabit this land and who have an equal right to the loaves and fishes of the

land, are always desirous of having European officers rather than Indian officers—(Hear, hear!) (A voice: Question!)—because whenever there is a question of holding the balance evenly, the European officers fare much better than Indian officers in the eyes of the minorities. Whenever there is an Indian officer in any place of authority, he puts all his relatives in the department, and that is resented extremely by the people who are in a minority and who may not have any relationship with Indian officers. These relatives and dependents are so near to them that they cannot resist the temptation of putting them in, in preference to other persons who are not so favourably circumstanced. Of course, if the Services are Indianized, the cost will be cheaper, but the administration will be altogether upset. With these words I oppose these motions.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: I support the amendment moved by Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, but it is not on the ground he has put forward, that is, substitution of I. C. S. officers by deputy collectors; on the contrary for some time to come, I think the I. C. S. officers should play an important part in educating the masses—in educating the officers and the inhabitants of the country. As one voice from that corner has already said, the people of this country have not the same kind of faith in the Provincial Service officers as in the I. C. S. officers. By Indian Service officers I mean also those Indian gentlemen who have spent their time in England and who have outgrown most of the prejudices that tell against them in their ordinary sphere of life. We find deputy collectors in charge of districts—some of them have proved successful, while others peculiarly broke down. From their conduct the people are in a position to say that they would rather be under foreign yoke for centuries than be under the thraldom of deputy collectors who are quite unfit. Moreover these officers—I mean the I.C.S. officers—must be there for some time to serve as an object lesson to the Indian officers who are put in charge of districts and subdivisions. They must learn that the people will not sit to dinner if they are simply told that they would relish the delicious dishes, but that they would examine the quality of the food before they partake of it. The catch-word "Indianization of the Services" will not popularize these officers, but they must work in such a way that the people in their charge will not complain that they are not dealing out justice with an even hand. We have heard of an officer holding charge of a subdivision and how he behaved in regard to such questions as cow-killing and other things.

Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT: May I rise to a point of order? Are we discussing the cow-killing question now and is at all relevant to the present discussion?

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: I have not brought the cow here to be killed. I raised the question with regard to the

behaviour of certain officers in order to show what these offices should not be Indianized at once.

Well, Sir, that officer could not outgrow his prejudice and fell foul of the people of the village and interfered with their rights. So long as they continue to behave in that fashion, the people of the country would not like that there should be Hindu or Muhammadan officers to rule over them, but that these I. C. S. officers should remain for some time. I see that there are some advocates of the sub-deputy collectors and I quite admit that they are a hard-worked people. They do as much work as the deputy collectors, but at the same time there is no reason why there should be so many sub-deputy collectors. I consider that the posts of circle officers are quite unnecessary. It was said that they would be a sort of link between the villagers and the Government and with that object they were created. That object has already failed. Circle officers are not popular officers—they are looked upon more as spies of Government than as advisers of the union boards. On the contrary if this work were entrusted to non-official gentlemen, or to such officers as co-operative inspectors, they would have been more popular than circle officers. Moreover, there is one thing. If you want that the ordinary people should look upon Government as their *ma bap* as they did of old, you must change the policy. You cannot satisfy the people by giving some loaves and fishes to some of them. Simply giving high salaries to certain officers will not do. I know there are officers who always side in secret with the non-co-operation movement and they do this more than the ordinary people who really love the Government for the benefit of the country. If the Government want that they should be liked by the people, then they should do something substantial for the benefit of the people. The people are groaning under heavy debts and Government should try their best to find out means whereby the *raiyats* can be relieved of the burden. Several laws were enacted, but I find from the figures of the last five years that not even five men amongst 5,000 obtained relief from the Agricultural Loans Act or the Land Improvement Act. If the Government could make sufficient provision for improving the lot of the people by protecting them from the ravages of floods, or from the consequences of a late monsoon, then the people will appreciate the efforts of Government. If sufficient money were set apart for putting bunds and other works of utility in order to keep away the flood-water from entering into their lands, in that case the people will get a bumper crop, and they will see the direct hand of Government and will love Government as they did in the past. Now they see that the Government is too high for them—they are ruled by a few officers. These officers who are in the enjoyment of high salaries look down upon the people, and the difference between the income of these officers and that of people possessing the same education and same status is the real cause of discontent. It is the great difference of earning which is the root-cause of discontent.

So I submit that a large amount of money can be saved in this direction. High salaries were granted, because it was said that as a result of the war the prices of the necessities of life increased. But I think that that was not the real ground. The real ground was that some high salaries were to be given to some high officials, and it looked odd not to give something to the deputy and sub-deputy collectors. Now those considerations have changed and the prices of the necessaries of life have come to the ordinary level, and it is high time that Government should accept the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee and reduce the salaries of these officers and thereby save this amount as recommended by my friend, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I beg to support the motion of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta. I have often asked questions to myself as to who really does the work of the district. The solid work is done by the deputy collectors. The Collector himself is the supervising authority, and the deputy collectors, who are hard-working people, work night and day and day and night. Nowadays we have got a large number of sub-deputy collectors who are employed as circle officers. When the Village Self-Government Act was passed in the old Council some sections were enacted by which powers were given to circle officers to help the administration of union boards. It was a great mistake on the part of the Legislature to invest these officers with such powers. I say this emphatically before the Council that interference is often made by these circle officers who try to impress upon the union boards in the villages that they are the hakims. Whenever there is taxation and whenever an appeal is preferred, they interfere. Therefore, these circle officers are absolutely of no use as regards the village administration for which they were intended. From the criticism offered by the members of this Council as regards the doings and acts of these circle officers, it will appear that their work is not appreciated by the people, and therefore, these circle officers should not exist. I do not want to say that there ought not to be any sub-deputy collectors, but what I want to contend is that the number of these circle officers ought to be limited if their work is to be appreciated. The services of these officers in the districts were utilized formerly for various purposes, namely, measurement, survey, and so on. Now we have got a crop of kanungos who do this kind of work, and it is hardly necessary, therefore, to enlist a large number of sub-deputy collectors as circle officers. I therefore beg to submit that the Council will kindly consider whether the figure retained in the budget for the pay of these officers ought to stand or not.

With these observations, I beg to support the motion of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I congratulate the helpless and the pitiable members of the Indian Civil Service for the prolongation of their life that has been given by my friends the two Maulvi Sahibs, who

are of opinion that the I. C. S. officers should remain in charge of districts for some time more. Well, the accepted principle of the Reforms is that there must be Indianization as quickly and as far as possible. None of us present here would say that it must be done to-morrow. We know that it is impossible or it is considered impossible. But for all that, to find out some reason based on purely communal ideas such as cow-killing and things of that kind and to say that we want I. C. S. officers for some time to come and that there should be no Indianization are things I cannot possibly understand. More Indianization does not necessarily mean that I. C. S. officers will not be there for some time. We want a greater share in the administration of our own country. Who in this world can resist that claim? It is the Indian services and it is the Indians who want to be in those services. Take the Indian Police Service—the superior service: can anybody say that Indians should not be there? Then, taking the Indian Civil Service, can anybody say that the Indians should not be there, be it Provincial or Imperial? We are to serve our motherland and nobody can question that. Has anybody any right to question that? We base our claim on natural justice—that we are the children of the soil and we should have an opportunity of serving our own motherland. What are all these arguments, this cow-killing and things of that kind? The cow is doing very well outside the Council but killing it inside the Council is a great nuisance. In everything you introduce cow-killing, the communal question, and things of that kind. Then there is my friend of the depressed classes. He also thinks that Indian officers will not do for the depressed classes. We must first learn that we are Indians and then Hindus and Muhammadans. If we cannot look at the situation from that point of view, it is impossible that we shall be able to look to the higher point of view, namely, that we are the citizens of a great Empire. If you cannot look from that standpoint, what is the good of your asking for the Reforms—what is the good of all this struggle? We must consider that we are citizens of a great Empire—we are Indians first, then Hindus and Muhammadans. If we cannot look at the situation from this point of view, it is useless to try to ameliorate our conditions. These are very simple questions, and it is rather too late in the day to discuss them now; it is too late in the day to say all these things about communal matters and things of that kind and to say that no Indianization is required. We have Muhammadan officials of great distinction and we never say that they are unjust to the Hindus. There was the late Nawab Sir Syed Shams-ul-Huda. Was there any case of complaint against him from any Hindu, even in the matter of appointments or things of that kind? It is no good raising these racial and communal questions in order to support your idea that Indianization is not wanted. The Reforms are based on it and Government are committed to it. I submit that it is high time that we should not talk of these things and that we should urge upon Government for greater Indianization as quickly as possible.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: Indianization is a part of the Reforms. Now, there seems to me to be a desire on the part of some Muhammadan members of this Council to do away with this part of the Reforms. Would it not be better, I ask, to do away with the Reforms altogether?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I think, with regard to the motion which refers to allowances and contingencies, I have nothing further to say than what has already been said by the Hon'ble the Finance Member. The House has, I think, shown its views already by rejecting various individual motions for the reduction of contingencies and allowances, and I therefore think it is unnecessary for me to take up any further time of the Council.

Coming to the next motion, I am sure that Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta will not expect me to follow him into a debate upon Indianization, but I do congratulate him on having at last been able to deliver part of his speech on Indianization, for in three sessions of the Council he has put in a motion on Indianization which, unfortunately, he has not been able to bring forward, to my own personal regret. But this is not the occasion when the Council can expect me to make a long speech on the question of Indianization. I notice that Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta compared the administration of other countries. Surely, Sir, when we are dealing with this subject, the proper comparison should be with other provinces. Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri has taken the provinces and gave us certain figures. I was astounded at the celerity with which he acquired the information and figures. He seemed to have the figures at his fingers' ends, but I realized the position when turning the pages of the programme I came across motion No. 399 of Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri against which I had noted the word "Absent." I congratulate Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri on being able to turn his speech on motion No. 399 into account in connection with this motion. He took the figures of area only in comparing with the other provinces. Well, Sir, area is one factor but a much more important factor is population, and if he will take the figures of population of the various provinces, I think he will find that the administration of Bengal is certainly less expensive. Taking the population into account, the number of I. C. S. officers in Bengal is certainly less than in other provinces.

Leaving Indianization, the next point raised is about circle officers. Well, Sir, there are 97 circle officers at present employed, and daily I get demands from all District Officers for more circle officers. The Local Self-Government Department could tell you of the benefit of circle officers in extending the principle of local self-government. But I think that it is not necessary to go very deeply into this question of the number of circle officers, because this House last August authorized Government to recruit 50 more circle officers on the ground that they were badly wanted. Owing to financial stringency Government only recruited 20,

Therefore, we have not carried out the wishes of the Council at that time, but we have carried out the wishes of the Council apparently this time.

Then, Sir, we have been asked to reduce the number of sub-deputy collectors, apart from circle officers. Well, Sir, I am astonished that a member who has been so long in the Council as Rai Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta Bahadur should at this stage denounce the utility of sub-deputy collectors. For the last three or four years this Council including the Rai Bahadur himself, has been pressing Government to make sub-deputies deputies on the ground that they are the backbone, they do all the work and they should draw the pay of the Provincial Service. When Government resisted that demand in the session held at Dacca some three years ago there were some hard words said about the unfeelingness of Government and the unfairness of Government. Now we are told that sub-deputies are useless and do nothing. That again is not the opinion of the District Officers. Both Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta and the Rai Bahadur say they are useless, and Babu Annada Charan Dutta says that he is pestered with sub-deputy collectors running about corridors stopping and hindering his work. That, doubtless, is an exaggeration, but I will concede that possibly the reason for this apparent redundancy of sub-deputy collectors is that for the first two years of their service they are trained at headquarters. We do not send them out to do the work untrained. Therefore, at headquarters quite a large number of sub-deputy collectors are being trained in the work they have to do later on and I do not doubt that these are the men that Babu Annada Charan Dutta trips over in the corridors. On this point the Retrenchment Committee bore a very different testimony to that of the Rai Bahadur. The Retrenchment Committee asked us to reduce the number of deputies on the ground that sub-deputies can do the work just as well and at a lower pay: that is one of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee which Government has to consider and on that I can make no pronouncement, but it does not square with the remarks of the Rai Bahadur.

Then, Sir, the next request that is made to me is to devise a new system of administration. Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur and I think Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta both asked me to devise a new system of administration. Well, Sir, I am afraid I have not got it in my pocket and I cannot produce it at the moment.

The last question that I have been asked is to define backward classes. That, Sir, is a delicate task which I am not prepared to enter upon. The only definition that I have ever seen of backward classes was in a note on a file beginning with " Muhammadans, Europeans and other backward classes." I think that we had better leave it at that.

The motions standing in the names of Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri and Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta were then put and lost.

The original demand under the head "22.—General Administration," as amended in Council, was then put and agreed to.

24.—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I move that a sum of Rs. 95,48,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "24.—Administration of Justice."

The demand under this major head consists of a number of minor heads which are set out in the budget statement. I do not think it necessary for me to say very much in making this demand to the House. All that I wish to point out is that this department is somewhat peculiar and different from the other departments. We do not deal with any expensive schemes. All that we do is to employ a number of officers—Judges and Magistrates—who administer justice, and most of them, if not all of them—possibly there are a few men who are regarded as slow—are engaged day after day on very arduous duties. Then, they have their establishments—absolutely necessary establishments—in order that the work of administration of justice may be carried on. That is the nature of this department. Here you cannot say that such and such a scheme is not necessary—give it up or curtail it. There is no room for any curtailment of that nature in this department. However I am perfectly aware that the Retrenchment Committee have made a number of suggestions, some of which are certainly of a far-reaching character. It is not expected of me to make any pronouncement on these recommendations. They will require a very elaborate investigation before any conclusion can be come to. Some of them would require alterations in the Statutes. Many of them can only be carried out in consultation with the High Court and the Government of India, but none of these schemes are involved in the motions that are set down for discussion on the agenda paper.

As regards some of the motions which relate to the High Court establishment, I wish to point out to the House that there is a Retrenchment Committee now sitting, or has been sitting till very recently, to inquire into the expenditure of the High Court. That Committee has not yet published its report, and when that report is published the Government will have to consider its recommendations. Till then, we are not in a position to express any conclusion on the several motions that relate to the establishment of the High Court. I would, therefore, ask the House and the movers of the amendments not to press any amendments now before the Council which relate to the High Court.

There are one or two small errors which have crept in. One is regarding the pleadership examination, for which the sum asked for is put down as Rs. 11,000. I pointed out in my budget speech that that was a mistake. It ought to be Rs. 5,000. The figure Rs. 11,000 was put down

on a calculation of the past six months before the new scheme involving the abolition of the greater part of this examination for pleaders as distinguished from the examination for mukhtearship came into force. Now there is only one examination and that is for the mukhtears. We shall be able to manage it with a sum of Rs. 5,000. Then there is another small item that I might just as well mention now, viz., house allowance for the Legal Remembrancer, and some other small expenses. As regards the house allowance I am glad to be able to tell the House that we shall substantially reduce that demand as the officer who holds the post of Legal Remembrancer is a senior officer drawing a pay of Rs. 2,500 a month, and therefore, under the rules, is not entitled to that allowance. Of the Rs. 2,000 I shall therefore give up Rs. 1,750 retaining only Rs. 250 for small expenses under that head.

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: In view of the statement made by the Hon'ble the Member, that a Retrenchment Committee is going into the question of the expenses of the High Court, I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The following motions were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 50,000 on account of office expenses and miscellaneous under the head '24A.—High Court—Original Side—Registrar' be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

"That the demand for Rs. 888 on account of servants under the head '24A.—High Court—Official Receiver' be reduced to the extent of the pay of three additional servants."

Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: The members of this Council may remember that in the first year of this Council a demand of Rs. 1,30,000 was made for the paper-book section of the Appellate Side of the High Court. At that time the Hon'ble the Member pointed out to us that on the revenue side there was a similar item which indicated that the department would be a self-supporting one. The members of the Council refused their assent but the demand was subsequently restored by His Excellency. Next year a similar demand for Rs. 50,000 was made, but the Council refused its assent again. His Excellency the Governor restored a portion of it and placed the balance in the supplementary budget for the consideration of the House again. During the debate in connection with that demand the Hon'ble the Member again pointed out that the departmnt would be a self-supporting one. Anyone who peruses the budget estimates of 1923-24 will come to the conclusion that the paper-book section has become self-supporting, as there is no demand for any grant for this section. I came to understand from the Secretary to the Judicial Department that Rs. 35,000 has been demanded for this section under the head "temporary establishment." I must say that this is unfair, unjust, and misleading. Whatever explanation may

be given by the Hon'ble the Member in charge it must be admitted that unless there is a note to that effect the members will naturally be misled and come to the conclusion that the department has become self-supporting.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: May I give an explanation? It is clearly the work of the Accountant-General. He has put together all the temporary establishments and we had nothing to do with it.

Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: Whether it is the work of the Accountant-General or the Hon'ble the Member I do not know, but the mistake is there and it will naturally lead members of this House to the conclusion that the department has become self-supporting. I gave notice of a motion that the demand under the head "24A.—High Court—Appellate Side" under the head "Temporary Establishment" for Rs. 46,628 be reduced to Rs. 23,000. Under these circumstances, Sir, I beg with your permission, to amend the motion in this form: "That the sum of Rs. 46,628 be reduced by Rs. 35,000."

Mr. PRESIDENT: Sir Abd-ur-Rahim, have you any objection?

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I have no objection.

Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: I move that the demand under "24A.—High Court—Appellate Side" under the head "Temporary Establishment" for Rs. 46,628 be reduced by Rs. 35,000. At the time when the Hon'ble the Member made the demand for this paper-book section he assured us that he would appoint a special officer to investigate into the working of this department and inform him whether it would likely to be self-supporting or not. I understand that a special officer was deputed to do this work and he has submitted his report. I am informed (I speak subject to correction by the Hon'ble the Member) that he has stated that this department cannot be self-supporting. In these circumstances, I say that this demand should be reduced by Rs. 35,000. I must make it clear that I do not press this motion on behalf of the vakils of the Calcutta High Court, but as a member of the public. My suggestion is that paper-books in second appeals should be dispensed with altogether. The members of the Council may know that in second appeals, according to the old rules, the pleadings, the judgments of Lower Courts, as well as the memorandum of appeal were printed, but under the new rules only the judgments of Lower Courts and the memorandum of appeal are printed. During the preliminary hearing of appeals under order 41, rule 11, the appellants are to supply typewritten copies of the judgments and memorandum of appeal for the use of the Judges. Fifty per cent. of the appeals are disposed of during this hearing, then why is not the same procedure followed at the time of the final hearing? Then again, as regards regular appeals, i.e., appeals from original decrees, the paper-books should also be prepared not by officers of the High Court but by

such persons as the Judges of the High Court may select if they are not willing to trust the vakils with this work. Let paper-books of a certain standard laid down by the High Court be prepared, at the instance of the litigants, by such persons possessing certain qualifications fixed by the High Court. If this course is adopted I think there will be no necessity for keeping a separate establishment in the High Court. On these grounds I press my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I do not like to add much to what has been said by my friend, Babu Rishindra Nath Sarkar, because he possesses the fullest knowledge of the subject under discussion. Great was my surprise to find that the item has been given a new name. I tried to find out but could not; then I was told it was inserted under this head. The explanation that is forthcoming here is that the Accountant-General has done it. The question that I would ask is, why did not the Accountant-General do it in 1921? Why did he not do it in 1922, and why has he changed the name this year? I am also surprised to hear that the Accountant-General has something to do with the preparation of the budget. If that be true why was it not put down for the paper-book department? Why was it put under a disguise? Why has the Accountant-General's name been taken? Was it to disguise the whole situation? I knew that this item of expenditure was objected to and you had to ask His Excellency the Governor to put it back there against the wishes of the Council. This was done, but you now put it under a disguise and say that it is the Accountant-General who has done it. This is a position which, so far as I am concerned, I am not prepared to accept. As regards the merits of the case, the auditors' report, I believe, shows that it is not a concern which pays it own way. From the facts that were placed before the Council last year and the year before, it was quite clear that this department cannot possibly do it, still the paper-book department has to be maintained. I could understand if this particular demand came from a member of the Civil Service—that would be easy enough—but as it came from the hands of one who is not a member of that service, I expected to hear his views for the failure of the department to become self-supporting as was promised to us. That would have been fair to us; there should have been the procedure, but to put it down like that and say that the Accountant-General——

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (Mr. C. N. Roy): Is the member in order in making these reflections on the Hon'ble the Member when he has given the explanation?

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I am very sorry to make these reflections, but if people invite reflections upon themselves by doing things they ought not to do, they have themselves to thank for it. Why do you not put it down in a palpable form? I would not have one word to say: perhaps you might justify it—that is my point. On its merits

I think that no case has been made out for bringing this up again. We refused to accept the demand for this department previously, repeatedly, and still it is being pressed.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I beg to support the motion. The Council has twice rejected this cost for the paper-books. Why should it have been brought before us again and in this form? Demoralized though we may be, still, for the credit of this Council, we should maintain our old position. Government may do whatever it likes, but we cannot go back upon what we have done. I am fully conscious of the fact that a Retrenchment Committee has sat and made its report on the expenses of the High Court. We do not know what its report is. I understand it has dealt with this matter in the report and when that report is before us we shall see what we can do. That report is not before us and as long as it is not before us we cannot go back upon our resolution. We shall, therefore, maintain our old resolution.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: I tried to explain how it was that the word "paper-book" did not appear in this budget. Mr. Mallik and Babu Rishindra Nath Sarkar have refused to accept the explanation given by me. I know they have very suspicious minds and it is beyond my ambition to reform them in the course of the day. I will not say that their case is hopeless: we all live to learn, but I may say (perhaps Mr. Mallik will accept this statement of mine) that I myself, when I found out that the paper-book was one of the items of the temporary establishment, was rather surprised that the entry did not appear in so many words in the budget. But there is another thing which neither Mr. Mallik nor Babu Rishindra Nath Sarkar knows anything about, and that is the procedure of the Accountant-General. He has got his own ideas as to how the budget is to be framed and what the headings are to be, and if he has altered that heading into one for "temporary establishment" lumping together all the temporary establishments, nobody in the Government is to be blamed.

As regards the merits, this is a subject which has been thrashed out so many times in this Council, that it will, I think, be a waste of time to repeat any of those arguments. One thing has not been mentioned either by Babu Rishindra Nath Sarkar or by Mr. Mallik that last time it was this very Council that passed the demand for the paper-book department: that was the last view expressed on the subject, and I will ask the House to adhere to that view. Besides, I am told that the matter is under inquiry and under the consideration of the High Court Retrenchment Committee, one member of which is the Deputy-President himself who has previously spoken very strongly on the subject. I think that all those members of this House, who are at all interested in the preparation of the paper books or are interested in how business is done on the Appellate Side of the High Court, should have entire confidence in the ability of Babu Surendra Nath Ray to urge everything that can be said in favour

of the paper-book being prepared by the vakils and not by the High Court. I suggest that it will be wise on the part of this Council, when they do not know what the Retrenchment Committee will recommend, to abstain from pressing their views and not to commit themselves to the view which has been put forward by Babu Rishindra Nath Sarkar and supported by Mr. Mallik. But one thing I must say again, which I said on the last occasion, that if this motion is going to be pressed the House should bear in mind that this is a demand relating to the establishment of the High Court and that we must leave it to the learned Judges of the High Court to say what is the best mode of transacting their business. They are highly responsible officers; they are doing the work from day to day, and if they find that a certain mode of conducting their business is the proper one and more convenient, I say that this House ought not to interfere with the learned Judges. I need not say anything more.

The motion being put, a division was claimed.

Mr. President directed that the division be first taken by a show of hands.

More than 10 members having risen in their places, the division was directed to be taken through the lobbies with the following result:—

AYES.

Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kisheri Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali.
Mallik, Babu Surendra Nath.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal.
Ray, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.

NOES.

Afzal, Nawabzada K. M., Khan Bahadur.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Aley, Mr. S. Mahboob.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Birley, Mr. L.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Cohen, Mr. D. J.
Crawford, Mr. T. C.
Das, Mr. S. R.
De, Mr. K. C.
De, Rai Bahadur Panindralal.
Deare, Major-General S. H.
Donovan, Mr. J. T.
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
Ghose, Mr. D. C.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
Huntingford, Mr. G. T.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the.
Marr, Mr. A.
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukerjee, Mr. S. C.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhone.
Phillip, Mr. J. Y.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Robertson, Mr. P. W.
Roy, Mr. C. N.
Salam, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Abdus.
Stark, Mr. H. A.
Stephenson, the Hon'ble Mr. H. L.
Stuart-Williams, Mr. S. C.
Travers, Mr. W. L.
Villiers, Mr. F. E. E.

The Ayes being 22 and the Noes 40, the motion was lost.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 35,000 on account of office expenses and miscellaneous under the head '24A.—High Court—Appellate Side—Registrar' be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand of Rs. 24,000 for the pay of law reporters under the head "24.—Administration of Justice—High Court—Appellate Side—Reporters" be reduced to Rs. 12,000.

There are eight persons engaged on this reporting business. We know that in reporting for the *Calcutta Weekly Notes* there is a much cheaper arrangement, whereas in this business there is one gentleman drawing Rs. 600, and seven drawing Rs. 200 each for reporting cases which are reported in 12 issues. We know that the work is not much, and I do not think that there is necessity for engaging so many men in this business. It is not a matter in which special knowledge is necessary and I do not think that we should wait for the decision of the Hon'ble Judges in this matter. The Hon'ble the Member in charge can at once see the reasonableness of the extra expenditure, and economy can safely be practised in this direction. What is reported we know and it is not a very arduous work and the services of so many men are not needed. In this view, I commend the resolution to the consideration of this House.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: This matter is regulated by the Council of Law Reporting. Before that Council was constituted, it used to be in the hands of the Government of India. As regards the number of reporters, there are seven ordinary reporters and one head reporter, who has got to do the work of editing, which is no doubt a responsible work. Seven reporters are required as there are seven courts sitting nowadays—as a matter of fact we have sometimes more than seven courts sitting. The reporters are not paid very much—only Rs. 200 a month, and the head reporter gets Rs. 700 a month.

I oppose the motion.

The motion was then put and lost.

Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: I am told by the Judicial Secretary that the amount of Rs. 6,500 has been wrongly entered in the column of allowances and that it is a printing mistake. The amount is actually wanted for postage and telegraphic charges. I therefore beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 6,500 under the head '24A.—High Court—Allowances, Honoraria, etc.,' be reduced to Rs. 5,000."

The following motion standing in the name of Maulvi Ekramul Huq was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 10,16,000 under the head '24.—Administration of Justice—High Court' be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 4,300 as allowance of Advocate-General under the head "24B.—Law Officers" be refused.

I shall begin by saying that I have not the slightest idea or the remotest wish of showing any disrespect to the present Advocate-General, nor of suggesting any vote of censure on him for misconduct. My principle reason for bringing this motion before the House is this: when I examined the budget, I found that Rs. 3,000 had been put down as the figure in the revised estimate for the current year. So there is an increase of Rs. 1,300 over the budget of next year. Not being able to understand what justified an increase in this allowance, I had given notice of this motion. But I have been told that this allowance, or whatever it may be, is subject to a contract between the Government and the Advocate-General; if that be so, I have not been able to understand why the matter should be the subject of a vote by the Legislative Council. Well, if it is a contract, it need not be placed at all for our consideration. Apart from that, I feel that the Advocate-General's position is such that Rs. 3,000 per month is not too much for him. But, Sir, we have to remember that the Advocate-General as Advocate-General has an earning which might perhaps go very much beyond Rs. 3,000 which the Government gives to him as allowance. Over and above the facilities which he has for earning from his own profession, I do not see whether there is any justification for an increase in the allowance, and that is the reason why I have brought forward this motion.

Mr. C. N. ROY: I beg to oppose this motion on behalf of Government. Dr. Dutt makes a complaint that he has not been able to find out the details of this expenditure. If he had asked me, I could have supplied him with the details. The budget statement does not give the details of the allowance which has been put down as Rs. 4,300. The hon'ble doctor is under the impression that it is a sort of *bukhshish* to the Advocate-General of Bengal. This amount—about Rs. 360 a month—I can assure the hon'ble member, is at least not for supplying *pan*, *cheroot* and *deasalai* to the Advocate-General.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I never mentioned *pan*, *cheroot* and *deasalai*.

Mr. C. N. ROY: This amount is required for his office rent, telephone charges, for his clerk, for the typewriter, for the sweeper, for his *chaprasis* and also for small articles of stationery. It is true that the contract grant was fixed by the Government of India when they fixed the salary

of the Advocate-General. The Government of India required the Bengal Government to pay all the salary and allowances of the Advocate-General and that is how this amount has come into the budget. In 1917, a committee—the Law Committee—was appointed to look into the question of the salaries of the Advocate-General, Standing Counsel, and other law officers; and that Committee after due consideration recommended that these allowances should be continued and the Bengal Government are continuing to do so. If the hon'ble member carries this motion to-day, we shall have to find other means to pay this allowance to the Advocate-General. Besides, as I have already explained, the amount, viz., Rs. 360 a month, is not too much for the Advocate-General's clerk and other expenses.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: This item of Rs. 150 is on account of hill allowances in connection with the Legal Remembrancer's office——

Mr. PRESIDENT: Rai Bahadur, please move your motion first.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand for Rs. 150 on account of hill allowance under the head "24B.—Law Officers—Legal Remembrancer" be refused.

I know that perhaps I would be told that this sum is paid to clerks. If it goes into the pockets of petty clerks, I for myself need not object to it; but I fail to understand the necessity for making the poor clerks go to Darjeeling and then paying them. What we contend against is that these clerks should not be dragged to the hill-tops and then remunerated by these allowances.

The Hon'ble Sir ABD-UR-RAHIM: This item is for a small allowance and it stands on the same footing as other hill allowances. The Legal Remembrancer has to go up to Darjeeling at times and he takes with him one clerk and two or three *chaprasis*.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 2,000 as house rent and other allowances under the head '24B.—Law Officers—Legal Remembrancer' be refused."

Mr. PRESIDENT: Rai Bahadur, would you please move the next two motions which stand in your name together?

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move—

(i) "that the demand of Rs. 25,000 for conducting law suits under the head '24B.—Law Officers—Legal Remembrancer' be reduced by Rs. 1,000"; and

(ii) "that the demand of Rs. 1,00,000 as fees to pleaders under the head '24B.—Law Officers—Legal Remembrancer' be reduced by Rs. 10,000."

You will find that last year we had a long discussion on the subject of payment of fees to pleaders in spite of the assistance which Government get from the Legal Remembrancer, the Advocate-General, the Government pleaders, the public prosecutors and other legal advisers to Government. I do not know and I fully realize the fact that at the present moment lawyers charge very exorbitant fees. [A voice: So do the doctors.] I do not say, however, that they charge extortionate fees, but that their charges are exorbitant. Who does not know that if a man has got to go to the High Court or any important law court in this city he has to carry a large sum of money in his pocket before he can go there. Unless his pockets are full, he cannot go up perhaps to the portals of the High Court. Well, it has become practically proverbial now that the lawyers are exacting as much money as they possibly can. That is my reason why I would like that in this Council we should try to reduce the amounts which are likely to go into the pockets of these lawyers. Some of these lawyers are my friends and I wish them success in their profession, but we cannot forget that here Government—a poor body of men—have to take recourse to these lawyers not for the purpose of pleasure or for joy, but because they cannot avoid the lawyers. I find that there is a tendency to go on increasing these sums provided for expenses in connection with lawyers, and I would request the Council to give an expression of their opinion by accepting the amendment which I have just moved with a view to enabling the people to understand that this Council cannot favour large sums of money being spent upon law suits and thereby giving an opportunity to the lawyers to earn these princely sums.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Annada Babu, you might move motions Nos. 455, 457 and 458 together.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I submit, Sir, that one of them relates to mufassal establishments.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Yes, but they are all on the same subject.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I move—

(i) "that the demand of Rs. 1,00,000 as fees to pleaders under the head '24B.—Law Officers—Legal Remembrancer' be reduced by Rs. 10,000";

(ii) "that the demand of Rs. 2,50,000 under the head '24B.—Law Officers—Fees to Pleaders in Criminal Cases in the Mufassal Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 10,000"; and

(iii) "that the demand for Rs. 40,000 for fees to pleaders in civil suits under '24.—Law Officers—Mufassal Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

My point is this: though I do not admit that practising lawyers charge more exorbitant fees than practising doctors—(Hear, hear!)—still there is room for cutting down some of these items. There is, however, one difference between these two classes, namely, doctors and lawyers. The former class charge their fees from the ill and dying people while the latter take only from the prosperous people. Of course there may be a lawyer whose experience may be otherwise. So far as that matter is concerned it is neither here nor there, but I am thankful to my friend Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur that he is always ready with his surgical knife for the pockets of the lawyers and I too join hands with him in this instance. From my long experience I admit that there is sufficient room for cutting down these items. (Hear, hear!)

So far as my first amendment is concerned, it refers to Calcutta where I understand there is a Public Prosecutor for the Police Court and the money is mainly utilized for payment to people who are specially engaged in certain other cases. There are a large number of pleaders, all intelligent men, who now crowd the law courts and cannot make both ends meet. No doubt the people generally pick out the people from the top of the profession, but there are some among the rising generation who can equally do the work well on a smaller amount. On that principle I think that the money can be reduced as I have asked for in my motion.

As regards my second amendment, Rs. 2,50,000 for payment to pleaders in criminal cases in mufassal courts is a little too much. From my personal experience I know that criminal cases are often entrusted to public prosecutors, which might very well be done and even better done by the trained inspectors and sub-inspectors who are attached to all the police courts in the districts. But it so happens that the public prosecutor being engaged elsewhere, other favourite people are brought in who get their fees for doing little or nothing. In this case the doctor's knife might be more useful. There are other cases—Criminal Investigation Department cases—in which nobody is responsible for expenditure. I have only confined myself to fees. It has been found in practice that pleaders are brought in once a week for a few minutes to appear before the deputy magistrate and conduct the case for five minutes and they are given full fees. I submit that these fees may easily be cut down. In the sessions court, however, there is a check over everything. But as regards the so-called conspiracy cases and Criminal Law (Amendment) Act cases a wide scope is given to the department. I have personal experience that in many cases a deputy magistrate with the help of the court inspector can manage a trial at a cost of Rs. 500 and thereby we might be saved an expenditure of several thousands.

There is another point which I would like to raise, namely, the policy underlying the engagement of outside pleaders in district courts. The permanent incumbent gets a fee of Rs. 25 to Rs. 32, but when outsiders are engaged, they are paid Rs. 16 only, and the result is that such people

are engaged as are worthless, but for whose service we have to pay all this amount.

In the case of criminal appeals a rule has been laid down that it is now at the sweet option of the Public Prosecutor to appear for the Crown. Formerly, that was not the case, and the Public Prosecutor used to be engaged in select cases by the District Magistrate. All these things ought to be looked into and I submit that a reduction is possible and that is the reason why I have suggested a reduction of Rs. 50,000 under this head.

As regards the last motion, I ask permission to withdraw it.

Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: I move that the demand under the head "24B.—Legal Remembrancer" be reduced by Re. 1.

This amendment is moved only to enable me to make some suggestions to the Government which if given effect to——

Mr. PRESIDENT: You must hurry up, Rishindra Babu, there are exactly five minutes more and Sir Abd-ur-Rahim has still to reply.

Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: My suggestion is this, that in all suits by or against the Government, the pleaders are sent up to the Legal Remembarncer for settlement. If suits up to the value of Rs. 2,000 are settled by the District Officer there will be a great deal of saving in the time of the Legal Remembrancer and also in other expenses. So I suggest that save and except in cases where such suits are for malicious prosecution or suits in which the local officer or the Government Pleader of the district thinks that the opinion of the Legal Remembrancer should be taken, those pleadings only should be sent up to the Legal Remembrancer, otherwise not.

Mr. C. N. ROY: I rise to oppose this motion. We have heard lately a great deal about the report of the Retrenchment Committee. The hon'ble members who brought forward these motions do not seem to have read it, because if they had, they would have seen that out of a budget provision of nearly Rs. 4 lakhs the Retrenchment Committee only suggested a cut of Rs. 1,500 and we are asked here by the various movers to make cuts running into thousands. Where the angels of the Retrenchment Committee feared to tread my hon'ble friends have gayly rushed in.

Taking the first motion of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur he has asked for a cut out of the demand for Rs. 25,000 for the conduct of law suits; he complains that the charges have increased; as a matter of fact the budget grant of last year was Rs. 30,000, and it is only Rs. 25,000 this year. I might mention that we only spent Rs. 13,000 this year, and I can assure the members that we have a balance which will be utilized usefully for other purposes. I submit, Sir, that this fall in expenditure is a matter of congratulation, but it is not the basis on which bugdets can

be made. Budgets are made on the expenditure of the last three years and on that basis this budget has been framed also. I may tell the members that about three years ago the expense under this head was Rs. 50,000, two years ago it was Rs. 35,000; last year it was only Rs. 22,000; this year it was estimated at Rs. 30,000. Our estimate next year is Rs. 25,000. There is an impression in the minds of hon'ble members that when there is a sum allotted in the budget, the inclination of Government is to spend it. But that it not the case under this head. It is intended simply to meet charges under *Talabana*, Paper-books, Court-fee stamps, and other necessary expenses to carry on litigation in the High Court. Government cannot spend money when there are no cases and the amount fluctuates according to the nature and importance of the cases. That explanation, I think, will satsify Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur. The budget having been framed on the basis of the last three years, we will do our best to cut down expenses, and if money is saved like this year, it will be put aside.

Then there is the motion of Babu Annada Charan Dutta that the demand of one lakh as fees to pleaders in Calcutta should be cut down to Rs. 75,000. This demand last year was Rs. 1,20,000, and I might say we spent only Rs. 78,000; but again, the budget has to be made on the basis of the last three or four years and as the budget expenses under this head have always been over a lakh, we thought it wise not to act in anticipation that there is going to be a decrease in expenditure next year. Any time a big case might come up; Mr Duval last year made a fairly long speech explaining in what way this money was wanted under this head; I do not wish to dilate upon it again. The money is wanted for different expenses, viz., the Advocate-General, Standing Counsel, Government Pleader, Public Prosecutors in the Police Courts, and so on, and the sum of one lakh is not too much for a place like Calcutta. However, to satisfy our friends we intend to cut down Rs. 10,000 from our demand under this head.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I accept that.

Mr. C. N. ROY: In the motion No. 456, namely that of Babu Annada Charan Dutta, I am also able to announce that we are prepared to cut down Rs. 10,000; I am afraid I cannot do more.

At this stage the time allotted for the discussion of this head was reached.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I would like to say one word in explanation——

Mr. PRESIDENT: I cannot allow that; you have had ample opportunity for explanation.

The motion that the demand of Rs. 1,00,000 as fees to pleaders under the head "24B.—Law Officers—Legal Remembrancer" be reduced by Rs. 10,000 was put and agreed to.

The motion that the demand of Rs. 2,50,000 under the head "24B.—Law Officers—Fees to Pleaders in Criminal Cases" in the mufassal establishment be reduced by Rs. 10,000 was put and agreed to.

The motion standing in the name of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur was then put and lost.

The motions standing in the names of Babu Annada Charan Dutta and Babu Rishindra Nath Sarkar were then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The time allotted for the discussion of this head having been reached the following motions were not considered:—

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 3,600 under the head '24D.—Coroner's Court—Pay of the Coroner' be refused."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 1,94,000 under the head '24E.—Presidency Magistrates' Courts' be reduced to Rs. 1,82,000 by discontinuing the Motor Magistrate's Court."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 14,000 for Juvenile Court and Detention House under the head '24E.—Presidency Magistrates' Courts' be reduced to Rs. 13,000."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the whole demand for Rs. 3,50,600 for fees to pleaders under the head '24.—Administration of Justice' be reduced to Rs. 3,25,600."

Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: "That the demand under the head '24F.—Civil and Sessions Courts—Munsifs' be reduced by Re. 1."

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: "That the demand for the temporary Subordinate Judges under the head '24F.' be refused."

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 60,000 on account of travelling allowance under the head '24F.—Civil and Sessions Courts—Allowances, Honoraria, etc.' be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 2,45,644 under the head '24F.—Civil and Sessions Courts—Process-serving Establishment' be reduced to the extent of the pay of three additional officers."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the demand of Rs. 15,94,000 for Process-serving Establishment under the head '24F.—Civil and Sessions Courts' be reduced by Rs. 50,000."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the demands for items other than pay of law reporters, fees to pleaders, process-service and travelling allowances under the head '24.—Administration of Justice—Civil and Sessions Court' be reduced by Re. 1.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand for Rs. 6,000 for pay of Secretary, Pleadership Examination Charges under the head 24—Administration of Justice' be refused."

Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: "That the demand for Rs. 11,000 under the head '241.—Pleadership Examination Charges' be refused."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 11,000 under the the head '241.—Pleadership Examination Charges' be reduced to Rs. 5,000."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the demand for Rs. 71,600 for travelling allowances under the head '24.—Administration of Justice' be reduced by Rs. 17,900."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 95,22,000 under the head '24.—Administration of Justice' be reduced by Rs. 5,00,000."

The original demand under the head "24.—Administration of Justice" as amended in Council was then put and agreed to.

At this stage the Council was adjourned for 15 minutes.

After the adjournment

25.—JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [JAILS] (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): I move that a sum of Rs. 36,62,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "25.—Jails and Convict Settlements."

This demand is divided into three parts: first the demand for Rs. 25,55,000 for jails; second the demand for Rs. 10,53,000 for jail manufactures; and lastly, the demand for Rs. 54,000 for loss on exchange which has already been explained by the Finance Member. The demand for jail manufactures is conditioned by the amount which we hope to turn out in the course of the year and to dispose of, and it is counterbalanced by the receipts. The crux of the demand is Rs. 25 lakhs for the actual running of the jails. We have reduced that this year by Rs. 65,000 and I can assure this Council that it is quite impossible to reduce that sum any further without affecting the diet of the prisoners or something of that sort.

The following motion standing in the names of Rai Faninďralal De Bahadur and Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur was, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 300 under Hill Allowance in Superintendence under the head '25A.' be refused."

The following item standing in the name of Babu Annada Charan Dutta was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn :—

"That the demand of Rs. 19,000 for petty constructions under '25.—Jails—District Jails' be reduced by Rs. 5."

The following item standing in the name of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn :—

"That the demand of Rs. 60,000 under the head '25A.—Jails—Juvenile Jails' be reduced to Rs. 55,000, the amount of the revised budget estimates, 1922-23."

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Surendra Nath Ray was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn :—

"That the demand for Rs. 25,55,000 under the head '25A.—Jails' be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000."

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn :—

"That the demand of Rs. 25,55,000 under the head '25A.—Jails' be reduced by Rs. 50,000."

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand for Rs. 36,62,000 under the head "25.—Jails and Convict Settlements" be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000. The total demand under this head seems to me to be very large. If the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, in regard to the conversion of district jails into subsidiary jails and the reduction of the period of detention in the case of under-trial prisoners are adopted, considerable savings may be effected. The substitution of fines for short-term sentences of imprisonment would, as suggested by the Retrenchment Committee, meet the views of modern penologists and result in substantial economy.

A further reduction under this head, however slight, will also be possible if the persons who have been convicted of political or semi-political offences are released. I may point out in this connection that political offenders have been released in the United Provinces, and that this matter is receiving serious consideration in the other provinces. Sir, the offences with which many of those people are charged, are trifling, and they have already been more than sufficiently punished. A better political atmosphere may be created in the country if my proposal is accepted. If there is to be peace and contentment in this province, the administration must be based upon the good-will of the people and not on force.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The amount of this cut, as has been explained, is the amount of saving suggested by the Retrenchment Committee if their proposals are carried out, but the mover has forgotten that before their proposals can be carried out, we will have

to enlarge some of the district jails to the size of central jails. We cannot reduce the district jails to subsidiary jails until we have made provision for the district jail prisoners in the central jails. The policy recommended by the Jails Committee of concentrating prisoners in all central jails, and reducing the ordinary district jail to the status of a subsidiary jail, has been accepted by Government, but it is a question of capital outlay. No doubt it will be cheaper in the end, but at present we have not got the money to enlarge any of these jails which are intended to hold about 300 to 400 people each, into a jail which will hold 1,500.

The second proposal on which the mover relied for making a saving, was the substitution of fines for short sentences. There Government is entirely with him; we dislike short sentences as much as anyone, and we are doing our best to get rid of them, but it is a matter which rests with the judiciary and the Judicial Department and other departments of Government, and will probably require legislation.

The third possible saving was by the release of political offenders. Well, Sir, I am sure Dr. Banerjea will not expect me to go into the question of the release of political offenders on this motion. That question does not arise in the Jails Department. The Hon'ble Member in charge of the Jails Department has no authority to release political prisoners. Dr. Banerjea has said that political prisoners have been released in the United Provinces. I should like to take a sporting bet with Dr. Banerjea that there are in this province fewer political prisoners than there are at the present moment in the jails in the United Provinces. The reduction in saving by the release of every person who called himself a political offender would certainly not amount to anything like the sum Dr. Banerjea proposes to cut.

The motion was put and lost.

The original demand that a sum of Rs. 36,62,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "25.—Jails and Convict Settlements" was then put and agreed to.

26.—POLICE.

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): I move that a sum of Rs. 1,73,31,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "26.—Police."

The sum that was granted in the present year was Rs. 1,88,97,000 and in July and August last the Council granted a supplementary grant amounting to Rs. 3,47,000, so the total grant for this year was Rs. 1,92,44,000, the demand in the budget for next year is Rs. 1,88,81,000; we have therefore cut the current year's budget by Rs. 3,63,000. In the next year's budget the amount required for the

normal development of the time-scales that have already been sanctioned is just over Rs. 6 lakhs, that is to say, if we put no fresh expenditure in the present year's budget and cut out nothing, we shall have to pay Rs. 6 lakhs more than last year in order to pay for the increase in the time-scales sanctioned. Therefore, this has obscured the saving that we have actually made. Actually on the current year's budget we have saved Rs. 9 lakhs. This has been made up of various cuts under the different heads under Police which it is not necessary for me to go into. Two lakhs of this saving is accounted for by recommendations made by the Retrenchment Committee, which we have accepted and taken into account in the budget. We are continually trying to reduce our expenditure. We are placed in rather an awkward position, because if we succeed in cutting down our budget demand we are told that that expenditure should never have been there, whereas if we do not cut down, we are accused of being extravagant and unsympathetic. On this point I would like to advert to the line of argument taken by Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, on the revenue estimates. When the Member in charge by dint of sleepless nights had succeeded in cutting out further items from the budget amounting to Rs. 2 lakhs, Mr. Dutta said that it was quite obvious that if he could cut Rs. 2 lakhs, he could cut two lakhs more. What, in all seriousness, I would suggest to him is, that this line of criticism is very dangerous. If our financial uprightness were not so firmly fixed, or if the eagle eye of the Finance Department were not so keen, we might be content to follow the line suggested by Mr. Dutta, and put into the budget things, especially with a view to the Council cutting them out. That, Sir, would be financial dishonesty of the worst possible kind, and would be disastrous to the province, but I do suggest that it is a line of conduct which certain motions for reduction tend to suggest to our innocent minds. I trust that in dealing with expenditure on the Police Department the Council will give me credit for not having taken that view and having put into the budget only the things which I think are absolutely necessary for efficiency. As a result again of sleepless nights I hope to be able to reduce the budget demand now presented still further in the course of examining these various proposals for reduction. But it is very difficult to allocate these reductions to any particular motion, because none of the motions quite fit in with the reductions which I think I can make. There is also the difficulty of allocating this reduction between the voted and non-voted items; therefore, I trust it will expedite matters if I say to the Council at once that provided there are no actual definite cuts made on these motions before we come to the big cuts, I think I may be able to accept with slight modification one of the more moderate cuts at the very end.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: The amendment refers to a recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee and, as promised by me, I beg leave of the Council to withdraw it.

The following amendment was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand under the head '26.—Police—Presidency Police—Superintendence' be reduced by Rs. 70,000."

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand for Rs. 81,900 on account of pay of Deputy and Assistant Commissioners under the head "26.—Police (26.—Presidency Police, Superintendence)" be reduced by Rs. 40,000."

The number of Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commisisoners of Police is already very large. There is provision for 16 in the current year's budget, but in the coming year their number is to be no less than 17. I do not think so many high officers are needed in the Police Department. It is the subordinate officers who really do the work. A reduction in the number of high officers is thus desirable in the interests of economy. I also want that Indianization should be carried further in the higher services of the Police Department. If this is done, there will be further savings. So I urge that the expenditure under this head should be reduced by about one-half of the amount provided in the budget.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 81,900 under the head "26A.—Presidency Police—Deputy and Assistant Commissioners" be reduced by Rs. 12,600.

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 81,900 under the head '26.—Presidency Police—Superintendence—Deputy and Assistant Commissioners' be reduced to Rs. 71,700."

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: Before I move my amendment, may I inquire of the Hon'ble Member, why one new Assistant Commissioner has been appointed in 1923-24? For, from the budget, we find that for the next year provision has been made for 17 such officers in the Police Department, whereas their number was 16 in the previous year.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The increase of one Assistant Commissioner refers to the Arms Act Assistant Commissioner. In 1921, when the Arms Act rules were brought into force, we only allowed a temporary establishment until we had time to see what the size of the permanent establishment ought to be. Last year under this head provision was made only for a temporary establishment. During the current year this force has been made permanent, and that is why it appears to be an increase although in fact there is no increase at all.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Deputy and Assistant Commissioners under the head Superintendence under the head '26A' be reduced by Rs. 10,000."

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand under the head "26A.—Presidency Police—Superintendence—Pay of officers" be reduced by Rs. 5,700.

The Retrenchment Committee recommended that so far as the Calcutta Police is concerned, in its superior staff "the posts of one Deputy Commissioner and three Assistant Commissioners should be abolished." And how is that recommendation being respected? By adding to the number of Assistant Commissioners. The number of Deputy and Assistant Commissioners was 16 in 1922-23 and for the next year, that is, 1923-24, we must have 17 of them. The Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson has said that Government provided, under the head temporary establishment for the new Assistant Commissioner last yaer, but I have yet to know whether that post is going to be made permanent in view of the recommenationds of the Retrenchment Committee.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand for Rs. 81,900 for the pay of Deputy and Assistant Commissioners under the head '26.—Police—Presidency Police—Superintendence" be reduced by Rs. 5,400."

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I hope I may be clearer to the rest of the Council than I appear to have been to Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri as to the reasons for this apparent increase. It is not really an increase. This Assistant Commissioner was temporarily sanctioned by the Council and the work has been going on and we now ask the Council to make his post permanent. Dr. Banerjea gave one reason for moving this motion and that was that he wanted to Indianize the higher services of the Police. All I can say is that it is a curious way of showing it when he moves the reduction in the pay of the only Deputy Commissioner in the Calcutta Police who is an Indian.

The motions of Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea, Shah Syed Emdadul Haq, and Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri were then put and lost.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 1,12,242 under the head "26.—Presidency Police—Assistants and clerks" be reduced by Rs. 12,242.

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: I move that the demand for the pay of assistants, clerks and servants in "Superintendence" under the head "26A" be reduced by Rs. 10,000.

The Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson declared the other day that the policy of the Government would be to stop recruitment for some time, but under this head I find that a good many assistants and clerks have been appointed this year. May I inquire how many new appointments have been made?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The increase in the number is due to the same cause as the increase in the number of Assistant Commissioners, that is, we have made permanent the already existing establishment in the Arms Act Branch and the Public Vehicles Branch. Both these establishments have been in existence for more than two years and they have now been made permanent. Last year, the House will remember that they sanctioned in the last Supplementary Budget the appointments of one duftry, one peon, and one record-supplier in the Arms Act Branch.

The motion standing in the name of Rai Fanindralal De Bahadur was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

The motion standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq was then put and lost.

The following motions were, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand for Rs. 2,040 for temporary establishment under the head '26A.—Presidency Police—Superintendence' be refused."

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand of Rs. 20,700 for travelling allowance under the head '26A.—Presidency Police—Superintendence' be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand for Rs. 20,700 for travelling allowance under the head '26.—Police—Presidency Police—Superintendence' be reduced by Rs. 1,700."

The following motion was ruled as being out of order as no specific cut was mentioned.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: "That the demand under the head '26A.—Presidency Police—Superintendence' for the pay of establishment, be reduced by the pay of 22 assistants and clerks."

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand for Rs. 1,72,200 on account of the salaries of Inspectors under the head "26.—Police (26A.—Presidency Police—Calcutta Police)" be reduced by Rs. 80,000.

The number of Police Inspectors in Calcutta is no less than 54 and it is now proposed to increase it to 55. The question now is: Is there enough work for so many officers? It is very strange that in spite of so many Inspectors life and property in Calcutta are not all secure. In

order to check the Goonda evil, resort to special legislation has been found necessary. There is a popular belief that when the number of police officers is large, crime is also on the increase. I do not think that this is nothing to be believed, but I would point out to the higher officials that in the interests of economy a reduction can easily be made by one-half of the amount that has been provided for in the budget.

The following motions were, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand of Rs. 1,72,200 under the head '26A.—Presidency Police—Calcutta Police—Inspectors' be reduced by Rs. 21,000."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 1,72,000 under the head '26.—Presidency Police—Calcutta Police—Inspectors' be reduced to Rs. 1,65,300."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand of Rs. 1,72,200 for pay of Inspectors under the head "Presidency Police—Calcutta Police" be reduced by Rs. 4,200.

He spoke in Bengali; a translation of his speech is as follows:—

Last year the budget grant under this head was Rs. 1,65,300, and this year it has been fixed at Rs. 1,72,200, that is to say Rs. 6,900 has been increased this year. An officer has also been increased this time. Owing to unrest in Calcutta, Government justified the necessity of increasing the police staff in Calcutta. But no such unrest exists in Calcutta at the present moment. I therefore think that my motion for the reduction of Rs. 4,200 is not unreasonable, and I would move my motion.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The increase in the number of Inspectors is due to the Council having sanctioned the appointment of an extra Inspector during the last rains for the purposes of the Arms Act Branch. On the general question whether there are too many Inspectors in Calcutta or not, I think the only answer that is needed is that the Retrenchment Committee itself has suggested a complete change in the system of the Calcutta Police. That question has to be considered with this and until we have got the new Commissioner's views upon it, it is quite impossible for me to give any idea of the line that should be taken in this matter.

The actual number of these Inspectors has been increased from time to time as required for the actual work, and I am not prepared to accept any reduction. The last increase was made not as the Retrenchment Committee thought in order to give better prospects to the Sub-Inspectors of Police but in order to place the larger and more important sections in charge of Inspectors rather than Sub-Inspectors.

The motions standing in the names of Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea and Shah Syed Emdadul Haq were then put and lost.

The following motions were, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand of Rs. 2,04,072 under the head '26A.—Presidency Police—Calcutta Police—Sub-Inspectors' be reduced by Rs. 12,000."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 2,04,072 under the head '26A.—Presidency Police—Calcutta Police—Sub-Inspectors' be reduced to Rs. 1,99,800."

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 2,04,072 under the head '26A.—Presidency Police—Sub-Inspector' be reduced by Rs. 2,072."

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand for Rs. 2,74,200 on account of salaries of sergeants under the head "26.—Police (26A.—Presidency Police—Calcutta Police)," be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000.

There are at the present moment 141 sergeants in the Calcutta Police and it is proposed to raise this number to 145. I do not know what need there is for these sergeants. Then again, the salaries provided for sergeants amount to Rs. 2,74,000. This seems to me to be a pretty large figure. Each sergeant thus costs the public Exchequer no less than Rs. 1,800 a year. This appears to me to be a very large sum and I think the number of sergeants may very well be reduced or their salaries reduced. I am not exactly acquainted with the kind of work that is done by sergeants, but I wish to know whether this kind of work can be performed by ordinary constables. In any case I demand that this sum be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000.

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 2,74,200 under the head '26A.—Presidency Police—Sergeants' be reduced to Rs. 2,26,504."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 2,74,200 under the head "26A.—Presidency Police—Sergeants" be reduced by Rs. 7,560."

He spoke in Bengali. A translation of his speech is as follows:—

Under this head this year four sergeants have been increased and Rs. 7,560 has been budgeted in excess. Such increase does not stand to reason. In the police, Sir, we always notice unreasonable demands of this description, and it is therefore that Government are losing faith day after day. The previous speakers have spoken at full length on this subject. I need not therefore say anything more. I move this motion for the acceptance of this Council.

Mr. S. M. BOSE: I move that the demand for Rs. 2,74,200 under the head "26A.—Presidency Police—Sergeants" be reduced by Rs. 7,200.

In this year I find that there are 141 sergeants, but in the budget I find a provision has been made for 145. So I move that the pay of these extra four sergeants on an average of Rs. 50 a month, that is Rs. 7,200 annually be deducted.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The increase in the number is due to the sanction by this Council last August when we increased the number of European sergeants for work in connection with the Public Vehicles and Motor Vehicles. But as regards the question whether this large number of sergeants is actually required, I have only to refer to the details of the discussion which we had some time ago on a motion to do away with police sergeants. I then pointed out to the Council that it had been recognized for the last 150 years that we have to have a mixed police force in Calcutta. The reason is that Calcutta is a big port and there is a large number of foreign sailors. It is a big criminal town and criminals from all parts of the world are to be found here and in the interest of law and order, it is essential that there should be a mixture of European element in the police force in Calcutta.

As regards the European sergeants I think the Council will agree that if we are going to have Europeans, we must have men of the right stamp and the right stamp is the ex-soldier with a first class character certificate. They have always been found to be the best men we can get. During the war we could not get them. But the cost of that class of men has gone up and the pay outside has gone up too. Therefore, if we are to get the right men we have got to pay for them. We went into this very carefully two years ago when we raised the sergeants' pay.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: May I ask one question? The Hon'ble Member in charge says that these sergeants are required for dealing with foreign criminals. I find there are a number of sergeants in this Council. Why have they been placed here? There are no foreign criminals here.

Mr. PRESIDENT: But, Indu Bhushan Babu, I see no sergeants here.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I mean at the Council door.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I see nobody in the Council Chamber.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: May I ask a question, Sir?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Not like the last one. It should be more serious.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: In every question where a particular demand has been supported by this House for an increase, the Hon'ble Member has availed himself of it, but in every question where we insisted on a reduction no mention has been made of them.

The motions standing in the names of Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea and Shah Syed Emdadul Haq were then put and lost.

The motion standing in the name of Mr. S. M. Bose was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motions were, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn :—

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand Rs. 1,83,060 under the head '26A.—Presidency Police—Calcutta Police—Assistant Sub-Inspectors and Head Constables' be reduced to Rs. 13,200."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 1,83,606 under the head '26A.—Presidency Police—Calcutta Police—Assistant Sub-Inspectors and Head Constables' be reduced to Rs. 1,74,270."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 1,83,060 under the head '26A.—Police—Presidency Police—Assistant Sub-Inspectors and Constables' be reduced by Rs. 5,886."

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I here repeat what I have already pointed out that these men have been employed with the full sanction of the Council.

The motion was put and lost.

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn :—

"That the demand of Rs. 8,24,976 under the head '26A.—Presidency Police—Calcutta Police—Constables' be reduced to Rs. 6,83,513."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 8,24,976 under the head '26A.—Presidency Police—Constables' be reduced by Rs. 9,976.

He spoke in Bengali in support of his motion. An English translation of his speech is as follows :—

Last year the grant under this head was Rs. 6,83,513, and it has been increased by Rs. 1,44,963 this year. Sir, the Government are more skilful in substantiating their demands for grants, whereas we lack much in this respect. However cogent reasons we may advance, they all become like cries in the wilderness. I would, therefore, only reduce the excess demand for this year and move my motion for the acceptance of the Government.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Mr. S. M. BOSE: "That the demand for Rs. 8,24,976 under the head '26A.—Presidency Police—Constables' be reduced by Rs. 7,000."

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: This refers to the pay of the constables. The increase in the number is due to the sanction already

given and the increase in the amount is due to the working out of the time-scale pay. The question of reducing the number of constables has been raised by the Retrenchment Committee and is one which is dependent on two points. Firstly, the provision of more motor transport and the second is the re-allocation of these various station houses. This is a part of the whole scheme of the separation of investigation staff from the thana staff that we are going into, but I can give no opinion on the subject at the moment.

The motion of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq was then put and lost.

The following motion was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand of Rs. 12,852 under the head '26A.—Presidency Police—Calcutta Police—Non-Commissoned Officers of the Armed Police' be reduced by Rs. 4,080."

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand for Rs. 25,749 on account of temporary force under head "26.—Police (26A.—Presidency Police—Calcutta Police)" be refused.

I wish to ascertain what is the exact nature of the duties of the temporary force. If their duties consist in putting down the non-co-operation movement or any movement of a similar nature, I shall certainly oppose this demand. If not, I will not press the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: This temporary force has nothing to do with the non-co-operation movement. It is purely a temporary force required for temporary use.

The motion was then put and lost.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand under the head "26A.—Presidency Police—Calcutta Police" for establishment, be reduced by Rs. 1,58,000.

The Council may or may not have voted this item of expenditure before. It is no doubt responsible for many things, good ,bad and indifferent. But the question is whether the Government are going to give effect to the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee or not. They recommended that there is a large "scope for economy in patrols" and that a reduction could be made of 300 constables and that, it was expected, would effect a saving of Rs. 1,58,000. In view of that recommendation I have put down the amount and I want to have the Government-view in this matter. It is altogether immaterial whether on a previous occasion the Council voted for it or not.

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: I move that the demand for the pay of the establishments, Calcutta Police, under the head "26A." be reduced by Rs. 15,000."

I find a similar increase in force next year provided for the Budget. Therefore I move for a reduction of Rs. 15,000.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I gather these motions have been moved on the basis of the Retrenchment Committee's report. The Retrenchment Committee recommended a total cut amounting to Rs. 8,13,500. Some of the items we have already accepted, for instance the cut for the Port Police. This particular item referred to by the mover is a reduction in the number of constables and the reduction in the number of patrol forces. I think the members when reading the report of the Retrenchment Committee will be able to see that these reductions are dependent, as I have said just now, partly on the provision for increased motor facilities, increased mobility, and partly on the question of the separation of the investigating staff and the patrol staff whereby the committee hope that they will be able to decrease a considerable number of section houses or reporting stations. That suggestion was worked out to a certain extent by Sir Reginald Clarke and it is now being examined by the present Commissioner and as soon as he has had time to study it he will report to Government and then we shall be able to go into the question. But there is a further limitation which the Committee themselves have recognized and that is the question of housing. If we are going to remove a number of patrol stations or thanas or reporting stations we have got to group them in the right place and probably to hire other houses. The Retrenchment Committee reported very strongly in favour of a scheme for erecting police buildings in Calcutta from loans—a scheme which I have always upheld. But in our present financial condition the Financial Department have told us that they could not cover the loan. What I want to say is this: that the reduction proposed by Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri is to a certain extent dependent on other proposals. Therefore, it is quite impossible for me to accept it. I can only say with regard to these proposals, what I have already said, that the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee are under consideration now and that we shall be very glad to tell the Council in July what we have done about these recommendations.

The motions were then put and lost.

Mr. S. M. BOSE: I move that the demand for Rs. 84,520 under the head "26A.—Presidency Police" for travelling allowance, be reduced by Rs. 14,000.

I find in this year's budget the amount for travelling allowance is about Rs. 80,000 and in this new budget the amount is increased to Rs. 84,520. I do not understand the reason for this increase of Rs. 4,520.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: This sum of Rs. 84,520 for the travelling allowances is made up of fixed conveyance allowance amounting to Rs. 74,500 and the remainder of it is for the travelling expenses of gazetted and non-gazetted officers. We have already reduced the demand of the Commissioner by Rs. 10,000. The question of these conveyance allowances will be examined departmentally and submitted to the scrutiny of the Financial Department, but as things stand we have to pay these allowances to our Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors under the terms of their appointment.

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motions were, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 84,520 under the head '26A.—Presidency Police—Calcutta Police—Travelling Allowance' be reduced to Rs. 75,000."

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand of Rs. 84,520 under the head '26A.—Presidency Police—Calcutta Police—Travelling Allowance' be reduced to Rs. 4,520."

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand of Rs. 76,252 under the head '26A.—Presidency Police—Calcutta Police—House-rent and other allowances' be reduced by Rs. 26,232."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand for Rs. 1,18,000 for contract contingencies under the head '26A.—Presidency Police—Calcutta Police' be reduced by Rs. 18,000."

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand of Rs. 1,83,000 under the head '26.—Presidency Police—Calcutta Police—Clothing charges' be reduced by Rs. 1,50,000."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 39,000 for purchase and maintenance of horses and their equipment under the head '26.—Presidency Police—Calcutta Police' be reduced to Rs. 20,000."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 4,00,000 under the head '26.—Presidency Police—Calcutta Police—Rents, rates and taxes' be reduced to Rs. 2,00,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 5,000 under the head "26.—Presidency Police—Purchase and maintenance of motor-cars" be refused.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The provision for the maintenance of motor-cars is the same as it was last year although the number

of motor-cars has been considerably increased and the House will remember that in the beginning of the year a vote was passed whereby more motor transport was given to the Commissioner of Police. The grant for maintenance has not been raised and I have repeated the proposal as it was last year.

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand of Rs. 8,60,000 for contingencies under the head "26.—Police—Presidency Police, Calcutta Police" be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000.

The amount of Rs. 8½ lakhs appears to us to be too high for contingencies in the Police Department. The Retrenchment Committee recommended large cuts in the contingencies of all the departments and the Finance Member told us the other day that he was prepared to go further than the Retrenchment Committee in this respect. My proposal, therefore, seems to be a quite modest one and I hope the Finance Member will see his way to accept it.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand of Rs. 10,20,752 under the head "26.—Presidency Police" for allowances, contingencies, supplies, etc., be reduced by Rs. 1,66,000."

One very great reason for excessive police charges in this province was these allowances and contingencies. The Retrenchment Committee remarks that the Police is to a great extent responsible for increased expenditure on allowances, etc. Therefore, I formally move my amendment.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: This raises the same question as was raised in various other departments regarding contingencies and I would ask the House to accept the promise put forward by the Finance Department that they would go carefully into this question and make as much saving as possible. I have already explained several items of these contingencies, but the largest item is rates and taxes; the Retrenchment Committee has made some remarks about this item, but we shall have to go on paying these charges until we build police buildings and then we shall be only too glad to welcome the economy rendered possible by having buildings of our own.

The motions were then put and lost.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: Almost all the subjects covered by my amendment have been discussed by the Retrenchment Committee, and I would like to withdraw my motion. But there is one matter to which I would like to refer here, so that, if not now at some other time, it may be considered by the powers that be. It is the Calcutta Mounted Police. It is said that we employ this force to deal with big crowds because this class of police is best suited for this nature of work.

Well, Sir, I have no quarrel with the great virtues that are ascribed to the Mounted Police. What I am concerned with is that we spend a huge sum of money over it, especially when I find that the occasions for properly utilising this force are rather so unhappily few (of course unhappily for the Police). This rather ornamental force of the Calcutta Police costs us about Rs. 1½ lakhs a year and consists of about 60 stately horses and about an equal number of perhaps statelier horsemen both Indian and European. What I suggest is that this force might be abolished and its stately duties might be taken over by another body of a more resplendent horsemen—I mean the Governor's Bodyguard. I understand that this Bodyguard have not any work to do for about 360 days in the year.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The discussion on the Bodyguard is absolutely out of order under this motion. It was relevant yesterday but it is irrelevant to-day.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I am not suggesting the abolition of the Bodyguard—I say abolish the Mounted Police altogether; and you can do away with it if you get the Governor's Bodyguard to do its work. They have got no work for 360 days in the year. Employ them, utilize their services as the Calcutta Mounted Police. This little extra police work would rather justify their existence. The saving that will be effected by the abolition of the Mounted Police will be about Rs. 1½ lakhs and this sum might be utilized for other purposes—sanitation, education and things of that sort. I may also point out that there is nothing novel in this suggestion. There is no Mounted Police Force in Madras and I understand that the Governor's Bodyguard there have on several occasions rendered police service with credit. If my information is correct, in the continent of Europe, in several smaller states the Bodyguard or the Horse Guard had often rendered police service when called upon to do so. I hope the Hon'ble Member will see his way to give his best consideration to it when the time comes. With these few observations, I beg to withdraw my motion.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Kumar Sahib, as you have withdrawn your motion you have no right to receive a reply from the Hon'ble Member in charge. You know the procedure very well. If you wished for a reply from the Hon'ble Member you should have waited till after he has spoken and then withdrawn your motion. But you began by saying that you would withdraw your motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motions were deemed to be withdrawn owing to the absence of the members:—

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: "That the demand of Rs. 27,20,000 under the head '26.—Presidency Police—Calcutta Police' be reduced by Re. 1."

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand of Rs. 780 under the head '26A.—Presidency Police—River Police—Sub-Inspectors' be reduced by Rs. 21,160."

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand of Rs. 16,800 under the head '26.—Presidency Police—River Police—Sergeants' be reduced by Rs. 4,080."

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHERJI: "That the demand of Rs. 47,460 under the head '26A.—Police—Presidency Police—River Police—Constables' be reduced by Rs. 6,000."

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand of Rs. 9,000 under the head '26A.—Presidency Police—River Police clothing charges' be reduced by Rs. 6,000."

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand of Rs. 86,000 under the head '26A.—Presidency Police—River Police' be reduced by Rs. 36,000"

The following motions were deemed to be withdrawn owing to the absence of the members:—

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand of Rs. 7,500 under the head '26.—Presidency Police—Dock Police—Sergeants' be reduced by Rs. 1,860."

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand of Rs. 10,716 under the head '26A.—Presidency Police—Dock Police—Assistant Sub-Inspectors and Head Constables' be reduced by Rs. 4,800."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: That the demand of Rs. 85,692, under the head '26A.—Presidency Police—Dock Police—Constables' be reduced to Rs. 43,835."

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand of Rs. 1,260 under the head '26A.—Presidency Police—Dock Police—Travelling Allowance' be reduced by Rs. 1,000."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 31,77,000 under the head "26A.—Presidency Police" be reduced by Rs. 5,00,000.

I shall take some time over it. Sir, before I go into the details of this branch I should like to mention to the Hon'ble Member in-charge that some time ago, on a resolution passed by the Council, a Committee was appointed to consider whether the cost of the Calcutta Police should continue to be borne by the Bengal Government. That Committee went deep into the matter and made some recommendations. Nearly a year

has elapsed since then and it is a strange thing that even to-day, in the preparation of this budget, we do not know what the attitude of the Government is going to be with regard to that matter. It is well known to the members of this Council that in the case of the village chaukidari police the people of the village and not the Bengal Government have got to pay. On similar lines it was suggested and some members of the Committee recommended that for the extravagantly high cost of the police in a city like Calcutta the ratepayers of Calcutta might be asked to pay a certain amount. As an alternative to this, a suggestion was also made that the Calcutta Police might be amalgamated with the Bengal Police so that the cost of this particular police might be reduced. I should like to ask the Hon'ble Member in charge to tell this House to-day what the attitude of the Government is with regard to these two suggestions.

Then, Sir, the question of the Mounted Police was raised by the Kumar Sahib; as he withdrew the motion we are not in a position to hear the Hon'ble Member's reply. May I ask the Hon'ble Member in charge whether he cannot very well do without the Mounted Police and manage with the Bodyguard of His Excellency the Governor to do that work?

Then, Sir, as regards the question of Indianization of the Superior Police, the Hon'ble Member has been able to say that one Indian Deputy Commissioner has been appointed this year.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: He was appointed some years ago.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I should suggest to the Hon'ble Member that the superior officers should be recruited in future from the Indian members of the staff thus giving a better chance to the gradual Indianization of the Services. About the appointment of an Assistant Commissioner of the Arms Act it was pointed out by the Hon'ble Member that it was temporary and it has only now been made permanent. During the last two years we have seen this rather curious policy of the Government, viz., that they make temporary establishment as a sort of feeler. If the Council objects, they say, it is only temporary arrangement, and should not be opposed. We get them for a certain period and when they have been in existence for two years we find temporary appointments are made permanent and it is said that the Council had sanctioned them before. I should strongly object to this principle of appointing temporary establishments and then making them permanent. I hope the Hon'ble Member will see his way to do away with the temporary staff as much as possible.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: At this late hour, I do not wish to intrude upon the time of the Council by making a speech. I, therefore, formally move my motion.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I should like to add one word. I cannot allow this opportunity of correcting a mistake made by my friend the Kumar Sahib. He has said that the Governor's Bodyguard is only employed for five days in the year and that they remain idle for 360 days. There my hon'ble friend is absolutely in the wrong. Sir, it is only on two days in the year that they are called upon to do some work and that they have no work for 363 days in the year. It is only on the two big race days that the bodyguard accompany His Excellency to the Race Course.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Discussion on the subject of the Bodyguard is quite out of order.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I only spoke in the interest of accuracy in regard to our proceedings.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I shall not follow Indu Babu's example of transgressing the rules by discussing the Bodyguard. The first point raised by him was with regard to the Calcutta Police Rate Committee. Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta is one of those people who are very optimistic—always in a hurry to see the work finished before it is begun. The Calcutta Police Rate Committee submitted a report with three signatures on one side and three on the other. It is therefore quite clear that Government cannot be rushed over it. The matter, however, has not been overlooked. I can assure the hon'ble member that I have for some years taken a very great interest in that particular matter and I may say that in a few days' time we shall have a committee meeting in regard to it. In any case it will require legislation and so it certainly could not be brought in within the life-time of this Council. Therefore, nothing can be done so far as this budget is concerned on that account.

The next suggestion was that the Calcutta Police should be amalgamated with the Bengal Police. I do not know whether this is an alternative suggestion. In any case I think the suggestion that the Calcutta Police should be amalgamated with the Bengal establishment is an impossible suggestion and for this reason: Calcutta requires a much more expensive police—a much more centralized police on much more modern lines—on much more Western lines than the rest of Bengal. Certainly it would not be economical to organize the rest of the Police force of Bengal on the lines of the Calcutta Police and I think if you organize the Calcutta Police on the lines of the Bengal Police then you would have an inefficient Police force in Calcutta.

The Government has been asked, Sir, to do away with the Mounted Police and utilise the Governor's Bodyguard for the purpose for which the Mounted Police are employed.

I gather that the genesis of this proposal is that on certain occasions the Bodyguard at Bombay have been useful in assisting to restore order.

But that is a very different thing from the Bodyguard being stationed at cross streets to regulate the traffic. I think the idea of having troopers of the Bodyguard regulating the traffic has only to be mentioned to be put aside. In my opinion the Calcutta Mounted Police have proved their utility over and over again since we have appointed them and I am not prepared to do away with them.

The next point is that there should be an increase in the number of Indian Deputy Commissioners. That, as I have explained to the Council on other occasions, covers a much wider question. The Deputy Commissioners of Police in Calcutta belong to the All-India Police Service and any addition to the listed posts in the All-India Police Service requires the sanction of the Secretary of State. There has been one post listed in Calcutta for an Indian and that will always be held by an Indian. If we appoint another Indian we should have at once to take away a post of District Superintendentship held by an Indian in the Bengal Police.

The last point raised was the objection to the Arms Act Establishment. I can see Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta's point. He objects to be caught napping. Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta's point is this staff is first asked for as a temporary staff and when the Council has voted it then after a lapse, say, of two years, we make the staff permanent and show it as such in the budget. On the other hand we are between two fires. The Financial Department would not allow us a permanent staff at once. They will not allow us a permanent staff until we can show them that the staff has been working for some time and the work that they have done is necessary and that the staff is therefore required. Therefore, we have to appoint this staff on a temporary footing in the first instance. In the case of the Arms Act staff the House will remember that a new set of rules was put into force from the 1st January, 1921, and it was certain that additional work would be entailed, but we did not know how much. Therefore, we only asked for a temporary staff and from time to time we have been reappointing them. We refused to make the staff permanent until we were satisfied that they were needed permanently. Sir, these are the points which were raised and I have replied to all of them. I have nothing more to say.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following motions were deemed to be withdrawn owing to the absence of the movers :—

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 3,768 under the head '26B.—Superintendence—Steam-launch Establishment' be refused."

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand of Rs. 15,000 under the head '26B.—Superintendence—Travelling Allowance' be reduced to Rs. 10,000."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 600 under the head '226B.—Superintendence—Hill Allowance' be refused."

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand of Rs. 6,000 under the head '26B.—Superintendence—Rents, rates and taxes' be reduced to Rs. 3,000."

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till 3 P.M. on Wednesday, the 21st March, 1923, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 21st March, 1923, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President in the Chair, the four Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council, the three Hon'ble Ministers, and 101 nominated and elected members.

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Election and nomination of Commissioners of Pabna municipality.

446. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) what is the population within the Pabna municipal area;

(*ii*) the number of Hindus, Mussalmans, and Christians within the said area, and their respective proportion to the whole population;

(*iii*) the total number of employees including menials serving on the permanent staff of the Pabna municipality, stating—

(*a*) their appointments;

(*b*) period of services;

(*c*) salaries; and

(*d*) their sects;

(*iv*) the amount of money spent annually in payment of wages of the Hindus, Mussalmans, and Christians, and their proportion to each other; and

(*v*) the total number of commissioners of the Pabna municipality showing the number of Hindus, Mussalmans, and Christians, elected and nominated?

(*b*) Wil lthe Hon'ble the Minister be pleasel to state whether the Chairman of the Pabna municipality had any hand in the recent selection of nominated commissioners?

(*c*) If not, on whose recommendations were the nominations made?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): (*a*) (*i*) The member is referred to column 5 of Form No. I appended to the Resolution on the Working of Municipalities for the year 1921-22 which was published in the Gazette of the 28th February, 1923.

(*ii*) Hindus: 9,784 or 50·6 per cent. of the total population.
Mussalmans: 9,462 or 48·9 per cent. of the total population.
Christians: 83 or ·4 per cent. of the total population.

(*iii*) and (*iv*) This information is not immediately available to Government and Government are of opinion that its utility would not be commensurate with the labour and time involved in its compilation.

(*v*) The total number of Commissioners is 18—

Hindus: Elected—11; Nominated—1.

Mussalmans: Elected—1; Nominated—4.

Christians: Elected—Nil; Nominated—1.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) As required by section 14 of the Bengal Municipal Act the commissioners were appointed by Government in consultation with local officers.

Kala-azar in Tippera.

447. Mr. KRISHNA CHANDRA RAY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state what are the vital statistics regarding deaths from kala-azar in the district of Tippera?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken in the district to combat the ravages of this fell disease?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether there is any arrangement for the examination of the blood of patients suffering from kala-azar in any Government, district board, or municipal dispensary or hospital?

(*d*) If not, are the Government considering the desirability of making immediate provisions for such examination for effective infection treatment?

(*e*) Are the Government also considering the advisability of opening a temporary dispensary for treating kala-azar patients only at the Akhaura junction or at any other suitable centre?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) The member is referred to the Annual Sanitary Report (Statement VIA).

(*b*) Dr. Sur examined a number of villages in this district in 1920 and a copy of his report was sent to the district board with a recommendation for taking action on the lines suggested by Dr. Sur.

(*c*) There are arrangements for the examination of blood for kala-azar in the Sadar and Brahmanbaria dispensaries in the special centres for treatment of kala-azar opened by the district board and in all other municipal and district board dispensaries where kala-azar is very prevalent.

(*d*) and (*e*) Owing to financial stringency Government are not in a position to take such measures.

The Budget for the year 1923-24.

Demands for Grants.

26.—Police.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand for Rs. 2,13,800 under the head "26.—Police (26B.—Superintendence)" be reduced by Rs. 1 lakh.

This sub-head "Superintendence" refers to business transacted mainly from the central office, namely, Calcutta, and total expenditure amounts to no less than Rs. 3,85,000 of which Rs. 1,71,000 is non-voted and Rs. 2,13,800 voted. The chief officials in this Department are one Inspector-General, five Deputy Inspectors-General and two other high officers, and their salaries account for nearly Rs. 2 lakhs out of the whole amount. The number of these high officials has considerably increased during the last 10 years. At present I submit that there are too many of these high officials. Further, the travelling allowance under this head amount to Rs. 15,000, steam boat establishment Rs. 3,758, house rent and other allowances Rs. 11,000, and contingencies Rs. 31,000. I submit, Sir, that a reduction is possible in every one of these items. The work of supervision from the central office, it should be remembered, is over and above that performed at headquarters in each district. Supervision is certainly essential, but it may be carried too far. Now, it not unoften happens that when there is too much of supervision, there is too little of actual work. Forms are filled in, records are kept or manufactured, letters are received and answered, but crime is not prevented and criminals go undetected. A change in the system has thus become absolutely necessary. Indianization has been urged before in connection with some of the other Services. Here again, there is a strong case for Indianization on the ground both of economy and efficiency.

The following motions were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn :—

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 2,13,800 under the head '26B.—Superintendence' be reduced by Rs. 50,000."

Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 2,13,800 under the head '26B.—Superintendence' be reduced by Re. 1."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 1,80,300 under the head '26C.—District Police—Superintendence' be reduced by Rs. 30,300."

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): I think the motion for reduction is somewhat vitiated by the statement that the whole of this superintendence is done from headquarters. The Range Deputy Inspector-General are not at headquarters. If I understood Dr. Banerjea aright he is under the impression that the whole of this staff of superintendence is stationed in Calcutta. That is not so. The Range Deputy Inspectors-General are in their own ranges and they are not in the Inspector-General's office. The Retrenchment Committee have recommended a certain amount of devolution from the Inspector-General to the Deputy Inspectors-General and that process has been going on for the last 10 years. The Deputy Inspectors-General now have a great deal of original work of their own which they had not to do 10 or 15 years ago. The provision first touched on is the steam-boat establishment. That, Sir, is for the launch shared by the Deputy Inspector-General of Bakarganj and the Deputy Inspector-General of Dacca. I do not think that that is an extravagant sum for a launch which serves two Deputy Inspectors-General in the water districts of Bengal. The second one is travelling allowance. We have already reduced the travelling allowance from Rs. 22,000 to Rs. 15,000. This travelling allowance covers the Inspector-General and the five Range Deputy Inspectors-General, and I do not think it can be said that this is an extravagant item. It will of course come under the close scrutiny that the Hon'ble the Finance Member has already promised with regard to all travelling allowances. The only other point touched on was the Indianization of the Police, and that, Sir, is going on. I do not know if Dr. Banerjea is aware that for the last two years there have been examinations held in India for the Indian Imperial Police and appointments have been made to that Police in Bengal my a competitive examination held for all-India at Allahabad.

Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea's motion was then put and lost.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 16,200 under the head "26C.—District Police—Assistant Superintendents" be reduced by Rs. 11,100.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 16,200 under the head "26C.—District Police—Salaries—Assistant Superintendents" be reduced by Rs. 6,000, by refusing an increase in the numerical strength proposed.

On a reference to the budget we find that while in 1923-24 we had 49 Assistant Superintendents, in the budget for 1923-24 the number of those officers has been put down as 50, and on a reference to the figures we find that while there is a substantial increase in the amount under non-voted from Rs. 2,49,300 to Rs. 3,40,200 this year, the amount under voted has decreased from Rs. 36,900 to Rs. 16,200. That is one of my reasons why I draw the attention of the Council to the continual increase in the amount spent on Assistant Superintendents and the continual increase in the number of such officers, and I move this motion as a protest against that.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I beg to support this motion. The main point I would like to urge is this: that these Assistant Superintendents are usually taken from the cadre of Inspectors, and those outsiders who are taken in and are given training are in no way better than the Inspectors except that they are placed a little higher than the latter officers. There is hardly any difference between their work and status and those of Inspectors. If the whole cadre is done away with and some experienced Inspectors are brought in to do the work, the efficiency will not suffer, but at the same time there will be pecuniary gain and much money will be saved. The original work is usually done in the thanas—I mean inquiry, keeping diaries and all these things—by sub-inspectors and assistant sub-inspectors. Over them we have got Inspectors and over them we have Assistant Superintendents and sometimes Deputy Superintendents and over them we have got Superintendents in the District Police. I need not go higher up: there may be other higher people elsewhere. But so far as the district police administration is concerned, these very things can be equally, if not better, done by the Inspectors. I would also do away with the Deputy Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents who usually do the work of something like Personal Assistants to the Superintendents of Police. An able, rising sub-inspector could do these things. We know that Personal Assistants to Divisional Commissioners are Deputy Magistrates and they are doing their work very well. Similarly, if you attach a junior inspector or an experienced sub-inspector as Personal Assistant to the Superintendent, he can do all the work and we can dispense with Deputy Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents as well without in any way impairing the efficiency of the police administration. You can really economise, and there

is no reason why we should allow these officers to exist. Sometimes they retard the work of other officers by too much supervision and interference. In these circumstances, I cannot understand why, although year after year this principle is being pressed upon Government, no steps have been taken in this direction. On the contrary, there has been an addition of one gentleman this year. I just had a talk with the Hon'ble Member and he said that this gentleman was deputed to the Military Police and now that the Military Police has got its full complement, there is no room for him there and so he has reverted to his post as Assistant Superintendent. This clearly shows that there is room for economy. He can be absorbed in some place and economy can be effected so far as his post is concerned.

With these words I beg to press my motion.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The explanation of the increase from 49 to 50 of the Assistant Superintendents of Police is almost that given by Babu Annada Charan Dutta. Last year owing to the difficulty of obtaining military officers for the Frontier Rifles we had to depute a senior Assistant Superintendent of Police as one of the officers of the Frontier Rifles. His pay last year was budgeted for under the Frontier Rifles. This year we have a full complement of military officers, and therefore he comes back to the general list not because, as Babu Annada Charan Dutta says, he has no place to go to, but because he comes back to us and we are no longer kept short by his deputation. There seems to be still a great deal of misunderstanding as regards the position of an Assistant Superintendent. An Assistant Superintendent is a man in training. The number of Assistant Superintendents is not governed by the definite amount of a certain kind of work that has to be done. The cadre of the Imperial Police is based upon a certain number of superior appointments ranging from the Inspector-General down to the Superintendents of Police. If there are, say, 60 of these appointments, we have to recruit every year, so that after 8 years' training there shall always be 60 men fit to hold these appointments. The number of recruits taken every year is conditioned by the number of superior appointments and the percentage which has been worked out after years of experience as to the annual recruitment that is necessary to keep up the full strength of superior appointments. Therefore, it is meauingless to suggest a reduction in the number of Assistant Superintendents. You may suggest that the recruitment for the Imperial Police should stop, that is a different matter, or that it should be done in a different way. But as long as you have got this system, it is meaningless to say that there should be one, two or three less Assistant Superintendents. The number of Assistant Superintendents depends entirely upon arithmetical calculations which show what number of them is required to provide this constant number of 60 superior posts. The result of this particular motion would be to deprive the Indian Assistant Superintendents who, as I mentioned just now, have been appointed

for the last two years, of their pay. At present they are being appointed in India and as such they are not appointed by the Secretary of State. Therefore, their pay is still voted. It is the intention of the Secretary of State to formally appoint them, and then their pay will be exactly on the same footing as that of the other Assistant Superintendents of Police. At the present moment this particular item provides for the pay of the Indian Assistant Superintendents and I am sure that it is not the wish of the House to deprive them of their pay.

The motions were then put and lost.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 1,38,480 under the head "26C.—District Executive Force—District Police—Salaries—Deputy Superintendents" be reduced by Rs. 46,560.

I have very little to add to what I have already said. Here the only thing that I wish to point out is that there is a proposed increase to the number by one, and I protest against that.

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Satish Chandra Mukharji was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand under the head '26C.—District Executive Force—District Police—Deputy Superintendents' be reduced by Rs. 38,480."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I move that the demand for Rs. 1,38,480 for Deputy Superintendents under the head "26C.—District Police" be reduced by Rs. 38,000.

I have very little to add to what I have already stated in moving the earlier motion. On the same principle my contention is that these Deputy Superintendents are not at all necessary, and I am not particularly fascinated with the idea that these posts are held by Indians or Anglo-Indians. What I am chiefly concerned with is to find out which of the items in the impregnable fort of the police budget can be cut by us. The argument that these posts are held by Indians does not appeal to me much. I again press that the duties attached to these posts could very well be performed by Inspectors and I only propose that gradually the cadre should be done away with. So this year I propose that Rs. 38,000 should be reduced from the demand and the principle of gradually doing away with the cadre be accepted.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 1,38,480 under the head "26C.—District Police—Deputy Superintendents" be reduced by Rs. 8,480.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The mystery of the increase in this case is due to the following. We have, in the interests of economy, abolished the Berhampore Training School and in charge of that Training School was a Deputy Superintendent of Police, his pay last year was

budgeted for under that head. It is now being budgeted for here. There is no increase in the number of Deputy Superintendents of Police.

Then, Sir, as regards the general question of Deputy Superintendents of Police, they were started on the recommendations of the Police Commission partly, if not mainly, in order to give the Inspectors and the Indian force generally an opportunity of rising and obtaining higher positions, and partly in order to provide for superintendence work which is ordinarily done by the Senior Assistant Superintendents. As I explained just now, we cannot at will increase the number of Assistant Superintendents and the Police Commission recommended that we should start a Provincial police force of Deputy Superintendents who would do the same work and take the same position as Assistant Superintendents, but who would form a Provincial police service in Bengal. Well, Sir, Babu Annada Charan Dutta is quite right in saying that these men rarely do investigation work. I can go further and say that they never investigate; it is not their work; they do supervise investigation in the same way as Superintendents of Police supervise a certain number of big cases and the Assistant Superintendents of Police supervise, but investigation is not their work. Their work is supervision and personally, as I said on previous occasions in this Council, I should regret the disappearance of the Deputy Superintendents' service because it is the Provincial police service in Bengal which takes the same place as regards the police as Deputy Magistrates do as regards the ordinary executive work of Bengal, and I think that it is quite possible that we may look in future to that Provincial police to provide us with our Superintendents of districts. Already there are six members of that service acting—rather I should not say acting, they are *pucca*, they are permanent. There are six of them who are permanent Superintendents and they rank with the Imperial police force and I look personally to the development of that system. But the whole question of the abolition of the Deputy Superintendents has been raised by the Retrenchment Committee and is under the examination of Government. Therefore, at the present time I am unable to give any indication as to what the views of the Government will be, but I would ask the House at all events not to prejudice the matter by passing these motions.

The motions standing in the names of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur, Babu Annada Charan Dutta and Shah Syed Emdadul Haq were put and lost.

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: Having regard to the statement made by the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson that no new recruitment has been made I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn: —

"That the demand for pay of officers, District Police, under the head '26C.' be reduced by Rs. 20,000."

The following motion standing in the name of Professor S. C. Mukherji was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn :—

"That the demand of Rs. 3,37,500 under the head '26C.—District Executive Force—District Police—Pay of officers,' be reduced by Re. 1."

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn :—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 5,84,100 under the head '26C.—District Police—Inspectors' be reduced to Rs. 11,100."

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: In paragraph 166 of their report, the Retrenchment Committee recommended the abolition of 38 posts of Circle Inspectors and they are of opinion that a reduction of Rs. 1,50,000 can safely be made under this head. I, therefore, in view of that recommendation, beg formally to move that the demand of Rs. 5,84,100 under the head '26C.—District Police—Inspectors' be reduced by Rs. 1,50,000.

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: I formally move that the demand of Rs. 5,84,100 under the head "26C. District Executive Force—District Police—Inspectors" be reduced by Rs. 84,000.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I formally move that the demand for Rs. 5,84,100 for Inspectors under "District Police—Police Force" be reduced by Rs. 4,000.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I gather that the objects of these motions are to express the movers' opinion of the recommendations made by the Retrenchment Committee for the reduction in the number of Circle Inspectors. The Retrenchment Committee have recognized the value of Circle Inspectors and have recommended their retention, but they consider that a certain number of them can be reduced. Well, Sir, I have already, in my budget speech in this connection, told the Council that the Retrenchment Committee's figures as regards the police reductions are not entirely correct. The number that they can reduce even on their own showing is not so great as they think, but the whole question is still under the consideration of Government; it requires a very careful weighing. What the recommendation practically comes to is this. The Retrenchment Committee admit that Circle Inspectors are useful. Therefore, there must be one Circle Inspector for every Circle. The reduction, therefore, that would be possible would be to reduce the number of Circle Inspectors in excess of the number of circles in the province or else to double up circles. The circles have been made with due regard to their size and the possibility of working them. Therefore, any proposal to double up and to reduce their number would have to be very carefully considered locally and otherwise. The other

question refers to a certain number of circles in subdivisions. There are a certain number of subdivisions where there are more than one circle. Ordinarily there is one Circle Inspector in every subdivision. In order to be able to reduce the number of circles, we should have to consider carefully whether these subdivided circles could not be abrogated and one Circle Inspector put in charge of each subdivision. This is a matter which will take some time to consider and I can only say that it is under the consideration of Government.

The motions were put and lost.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand of Rs. 19,43,980 under the head '26C.—District Executive Force—District Police—Sub-Inspectors' be reduced to Rs. 18,00,000."

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand for Rs. 52,780 on account of salaries of European constables under the head "26C.—District Police—Police Force" be refused.

The pay of a European constable is Rs. 135 to Rs. 175, while that of an Indian constable is Rs. 16 rising to Rs. 20. A European constable thus costs the country eight or nine times as much as an Indian constable. Now, I do not know why there should be so great a difference between the rates of remuneration of the two classes of constables. This difference cannot fail to cause a sense of bitterness in the minds of Indian constables. Unless the Hon'ble Member in charge is able to satisfy the Council that there are special reasons for retaining the services of European constables at such high rates of pay it will be the duty of this Council to refuse this demand.

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: I move that the demand of Rs. 52,780 under the head "26C.—District Executive Force—District Police—European Constables" be reduced by Rs. 12,780.

The point in my amendment is this, that we find from the budget there has been a large reduction in the number of sub-inspectors from 1,709 to 1,687 and in the number of assistant sub-inspectors and head constables from 2,405 to 2,329, and again in the case of Indian constables, there is a reduction from 19,037 to 18,453, but we do not find any reduction in the number of European constables. Therefore, I think that consistency demands that there should be also a reduction in the number of European constables. With these words I press my motion.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: The year before last when the Government suggested retrenchment in the Police Department, a conference was held at Dacca, of which the District Magistrate, the Superintendent of Police, and two members of this Council were members. In that conference it was decided that the necessity for European constables was

not at all great and they suggested to Government that instead of European constables the retired Indian Army sepoys might be brought in, so that in one stroke they might get cheaper men, and at the same time they might encourage Indian sepoys. I brought this fact to the notice of the Hon'ble Sir Henry Wheeler last year and he promised to look into the matter. I should be much obliged if the Hon'ble Member would let us know what the Government have decided on the recommendations of their own officers.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The main intention of Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea in bringing this motion forward was to call attention to the difference of remuneration between the European constable and the Indian constable. Well, Sir, I think that the reasons for the difference are obvious. If you require European constables of the same class as European Sergeants, you have got to pay for them; if you do not require them, you ought not to have them. These European constables are employed on the following work: 17 of them are on town duties—Dacca, Narayanganj, Chittagong and Hooghly; 8 of them are in Howrah, Budge Budge and Darjeeling; 11 of them are in the emergency force, and one is on guard at Government House. I think that for the duties on which they are employed and the class of work for which we require European constables, viz., superintendence of patrol work in bazars and superintendence of reserve guards for drill purposes, European constables have, ever since the Police Commission and possibly before that, been considered necessary, and nothing I have heard this afternoon convinces me that it is not necessary to have them.

Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta has asked me what has been done on the recommendation of the conference of a committee at Dacca? I am sorry to say that I have personally never seen the recommendation. This small committee, I presume, was one of the committees that Sir Henry Wheeler asked to go into the question of possible reductions in districts some three years ago. Sir Henry Wheeler asked the District Magistrates to consult with members of this Council who are residents of their districts and ask them if they could point out any particular economy in their respective districts which they thought possible. I have read the results of that in the Blue Book which has been circulated to all members, and in the vast majority of cases these committees were unable to recommend any reduction and in many cases they recommended an increase. As regards this particular recommendation, I cannot charge my memory with it, nor do I know that it was ever supported by the District Magistrate or the Superintendent of Police.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: May I rise on a point of personal explanation? The recommendation was supported by the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police, and it is to be found in the book which is in the hands of all the members.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: In any case it was not a committee appointed by Government for the particular purpose of reducing the expenses of the police. The recommendations that were received were no doubt considered by the Government at the time, and as I was not personally here, I know nothing about the actual process of the consideration, but no orders were passed abolishing the four European constables at Dacca to which alone the recommendation relates, nor within my knowledge, during the last two years, has the District Magistrate of Dacca made any suggestion to that effect.

The motions were put and lost.

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: I move that the demand of Rs. 17,53,540 under the head "26C.—District Executive Force—District Police—Assistant Sub-Inspectors and Head Constables" be reduced by Rs. 7,53,540.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: Perhaps it would save time if I explain that the reduction proposed has already been made because the figures Rs. 17,53,540 are a misprint for Rs. 7 lakhs.

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 1,94,000 for the temporary district intelligence force under District Police be reduced by Rs. 94,000.

One is apt to inquire why this district intelligence is necessary. We have got any number of police force in the district, from Superintendent of Police downwards to the constable. Perhaps we have got too many of them both for police work and for spying work and still you have got to supplement it by another department known as the temporary intelligence, as if the permanent staff has got to be complemented for this sort of observation. One hopeful sign is that from Rs. 4 lakhs of last year it has been brought down to about Rs. 2 lakhs and I do not know whether the standard of budgeting, which is generally to be taken as the common factor of three years' budget, has been observed here or not. The question which I am inclined to ask is this: What is the rule? Is there any fixed standard from which Government cannot deviate as regards putting figures in the budget? Last evening I have heard from the Government Member that whether the money is necessary or not they take the common factor of three years' figures and budget even if there is a prospect of saving.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: On a point of personal explanation. If the hon'ble member is referring to what I said yesterday

that is not correct. What I did say was with regard to a particular item. The expenditure under that item varies from year to year, and therefore, in estimating that item for next year the Finance Department had taken the average of last three years. By no means I meant to imply that that is the way we budget. We budget for what we actually want next year.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: Many thanks for the explanation. I understood it in that way and most of the members understood it also in that way. However, the fact is plain that the budget figures are always based on the necessity or prospective necessity for the expenditure of next year. If that is so we have already got this indication in that the figure of Rs. 4 lakhs has been reduced to Rs. 2 lakhs clearly demonstrating that there is no further necessity or at least such necessity for supplementing the district police force with the temporary intelligence staff. We have heard from His Excellency the other day that calm has been restored and agitation has ceased. So there is hardly any necessity of this spying system in the districts and this item could still be more reduced. That can safely be done. We have been hearing an argument that in case any necessity arises in order to guard against particular emergency money is asked for, and if a saving is made nobody will take it away or misappropriate. It will be agreed that this should not be the guiding principle in framing the budget. We ought to look into the circumstances and the necessity of a particular item of expenditure or for entertaining a particular force. So far we can judge from practical experience, these people, who generally go by the name of district intelligence police staff, have very little to do; at least what they do does not come above the surface and we have had instances of how innocent people have been dragged into manufactured cases out of private motives. Well, if that is the only index of their utility the sooner they go the better. I have only proposed a reduction of Rs. 94,000. With these words I beg to press my motion.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: We find that this item is kept for temporary district intelligence. Now we understand that this figure is necessary for the year in question. If it is only required for the particular year, we understand the meaning of the word temporary, but if the figure is kept on every year, then the question appears to be why this figure is retained under the head "temporary district intelligence." If permanent the word temporary should be deleted; if not permanent, and if it is only for one year, we understand the temporary necessity of Government. If it is pressed that this figure is necessary temporarily, then it will be a matter for consideration by the Council whether the circumstances oblige Government to retain the figure or not. There is nothing to show that it is so necessary and as has been pointed out by the previous speaker, the political atmosphere

is now calm and there is no necessity for retaining such a figure. With these words I support the motion.

Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur: It passes my comprehension how this budget has been framed by the Hon'ble the Finance Member and his staff. Now, if the object was to make the budget unintelligible to the common run of members of this Council, the Government have been uncommonly successful; because some of its figures are always unintelligible to us. If we refer to the budget figures we find that the budget estimate under this head in the year 1922-23 was Rs. 4 lakhs, but the actuals of 1921-22 were Rs. 64,866; but then, the budget estimate for 1923-24 is put down as Rs. 1,94,000. Further, with all my experience of the district police and the district administration, I could not find out who these temporary district intelligence police officers were and are, where they live and what functions they perform, and the necessity for this force in the district administration is not known to me, nor intelligible to me. If the figures are meant for secret service money; the position is quite intelligible, but if it is not, I do not know what this temporary district intelligence staff really means. We were told some time ago, that a large reduction had been made in the Criminal Investigation Department known as the "C. I. D." But the word "temporary" introduces another complication. Of course, if the Intelligence Department is meant by this, then it is comprehensible, because we know that there are certain officers in the district who go about saying that they belong to the Intelligence Branch, but why this word "temporary"? If by the word "temporary' is meant, that the staff is maintained, for some temporary purpose, that purpose is not known to us and we can very well object to this amount being voted by this Council unless and until a satisfactory explanation is given to the members of this Council as to the necessity of the staff, their character, and the nature of the duties they perform. With these words I support the motion of my friend Babu Annada Charan Dutta.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: I am sorry that Babu Annada Charan Dutta should find that there are rather too many policemen in Bengal for his own peace of mind, but, Sir, I am still more sorry that he should have descended to launch an accusation of bringing manufactured cases out of private motives against the class of men to whom the people of Bengal, for their services during the strenuous days of 1912—18, owe a very heavy debt of gratitude; they are men of whose work anybody who has had experience of it in those days can only speak with unstinted praise.

It has been asked why this force is temporary and not permanent. Well, Sir, it is temporary because the political atmosphere is also temporary and not permanent; and this force depends mainly upon the political atmosphere. The District Intelligence Branch was created because it

was found that the small Central Intelligence Branch could not be in touch with the circumstances of all the districts in Bengal. Since it was created, it has done an immense amount of exceedingly good work. I wish I could take the optimistic view that it is no longer required. The information on which we gauge the necessity of the strength of this department is of course of a nature which I cannot lay before the Council; but those who think that nothing is going on in Bengal beyond what appears on the surface are living in a fool's paradise.

We have reduced the provision for this force by Rs. 1,93,700 in the coming year and that is an earnest of our endeavour to economize as far as we possibly can. I hope, Sir, to make further reductions under this head which will be included in the cut I intimated to the Council yesterday. The actual strength of 14 Inspectors and 27 Sub-Inspectors, I submit, is not excessive for the whole of Bengal. The Retrenchment Committee examined this matter and they say:—

> In fact, we are doubtful of the necessity of any special intelligence force at the present time. Such political work as there is should not be beyond the powers of the ordinary district staff. It is not easy for us to gauge the amount of legitimate intelligence work required by the present political situation, but we feel justified in making the suggestion that a small intelligence force in Calcutta which would also keep in touch with District Superintendents and mufassal conditions, is all that is necessary at the present time.

I have no hesitation whatever in saying that it is impossible to go back to the time before the District Intelligence Branch was created. The Committee recommend a reduction of 14 constables and this we have accepted. They make, however, no special recommendation as to other reductions. We have this year also reduced one Inspector and four Sub-Inspectors from the strength of this force. My point is that the Retrenchment Committee recognized that they were not in a position to gauge the amount of work and the amount of force required; and they therefore made a suggestion that Government should make an endeavour to reduce expenditure. I claim, however, that the mere fact that we have reduced this demand by nearly Rs. 2 lakhs is proof that we are very carefully regulating the staff to the requirements.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: May I say a few words on this motion?

Mr. PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. E. A. Cotton): Indu Babu, you cannot do that. The Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson has already replied.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Some points have arisen from the reply of the Hon'ble Member——

Mr. PRESIDENT: Before the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson got up to reply, I looked round the Chamber and I gave you ample opportunity and you did not get up.

The motion was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ahmed, Mr. M.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Ali, Maulvi Syed Muksood.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Banerjea, Dr. Pramathanath.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tankanath.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Chowdhury, Maulvi Fazlal Karim
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.
Doss, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Dutt, Mr. Ajoy Chunder.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
Khan Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad Ershad Ali.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal.
Ray, Babu Jogendra Krishna.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra
Roy, Raja Manilell Singh.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.
Sarkar, Babu Rishindra Nath.

NOES.

Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Barton, Mr. H.
Birley, Mr. L.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid. Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Choudhury, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Rahmatjan.
Crawford, Mr. T. C.
De, Mr. K. C.
Deare, Major-General B. H.
DeLisle, Mr. J. A.
Donald, the Hon'ble Mr. J.
Donovan, Mr. J. T.
Emerson, Mr. T.
Ferrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
Huntingford, Mr. G. T.
Jones, Mr. J. A.
Leslie, Mr. W. L.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the.
Marr, Mr. A.
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukerjee, Mr. S. C.
Philip, Mr. J. Y.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Robertson, Mr. F. W.
Roy, Mr. C. N.
Roy, Mr. J. N.
Rose, Mr. C. F.
Skinner, Mr. H. E.
Stephenson, the Hon'ble Mr. H. L.
Stuart-Williams, Mr. S. C.
Travers, Mr. W. L.
Villiers, Mr. F. E. E.

The Ayes being 40 and the Noes 35, the motion was carried.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 70,77,036 under the head '26C.—Police Force' be reduced by Rs. 2,50,000."

The following motion standing in the name of Professor S. C. Mukherji was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 80,77,030 under the head '26C.—District Executive Force—District Police—Police Force' be reduced by Re. 1."

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: I move that the demand of Rs. 71,712 under the head "26C.—District Executive Staff—District Police—Police Training School—Instructing Staff" be reduced by Rs. 11,712.

It will appear from the budget that the amount provided under this head in 1921-22 was Rs. 1,23,000. This year it is Rs. 97,000 odd and in the next year it is reduced to Rs. 71,000 odd. The impression in the country is that there is much waste under this head and that the impression is not a baseless but a substantial one is proved from the fact that Government itself is making a considerable reduction from the provision of 1921-22. My amendment, therefore, seeks to reduce the provision by half.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: This appears to be a motion of the kind that I objected to in the case of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta. The mover seems to think that because Government have made some reduction the Council should therefore refuse the rest of the vote. Under this head we have already reduced the provision by Rs. 1,09,000. We have abolished the detective training school, which was recently at Howrah and is now in Calcutta. We have abolished the training school at Berhampore and we have abolished the Dacca school. The Retrenchment Committee itself tells us that we must not abolish the Sarda school. The Committee's estimate of running the school on very reduced lines was a considerably great underestimate. The report does not give the figures on which it makes the estimate, and I have had the matter looked into and I think the school cannot be run on the amount put down by the Committee. The actual proposals of the Committee are under the consideration of Government. We have abolished the classes temporarily for sub-inspectors in the training college, and we have reduced the staff. The questions remaining are whether a Deputy Superintendent or a Superintendent of Police is required for the management and control of 700 constables, and whether we are going to continue to train our Assistant Superintendents at the Sarda college at an extra cost of Rs. 10,000 a year. As I have said, out of the Retrenchment Committee's estimate of Rs. 2,20,000 that could be saved at Sarda, Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 40,000 is due to an underestimate of running the school. We have reduced the grant by Rs. 1,09,000, and I may repeat that I hope we shall be able to reduce it still further, and the amount of such reduction will be allowed for in the cut I shall accept later. I cannot, however, accept the motion, because I have to spread the reductions over the whole budget. But I am prepared to reduce the expenditure on the head of police training still further, as I have said.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: In view of the assurance of the Hon'ble Member in charge that he will try to reduce the expenditure under the head of police training, I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The following motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn :—

"That the demand under the head '26C.—District Executive Force—Police Training School' be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000."

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn :—

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: "That the demand under the head '26C.—Police Training Schools' be reduced by Rs. 90,000."

The following motion standing in the name of Professor S. C. Mukherji was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn :—

"That the demand of Rs. 1,67,500 for Police Training School, under the head '26C.—District Executive Force' be reduced by Re. 1."

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn :—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 1,67,500 under the head '26C.—Police Training School' be refused."

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: I move that the demand of Rs. 2,08,488 under the head "26C.—District Executive Force—Establishment—clerks" be reduced by Rs. 28,488.

It will appear from the budget that the amount this year is Rs. 1,22,940, and it will also appear that the number of clerks is going to be increased from 257 to 271, and the amount put down as voted is Rs. 2,08,488, or practically nearly about a lakh of rupees more is going to be spent on this head than last year.

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Fanindralal De Bahadur was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn :—

"That the demand for the pay of clerks, under Establishment—District Executive Police—under the head '26C.' be reduced by Rs. 20,000."

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The increase in the number of clerks is 14. It is made up of the following :—An assistant accountant at Hooghly and nine assistant accountants for nine separate districts. The case for the appointment of assistant accountants was put before the Council by me in August last. I then referred to the fact that the Accountant-General had himself insisted upon further assistance being given to the Accounts Department on the ground that with a single accountant in a district, it was impossible for the accounts to be got through in the form and at the pace that he wanted.

The other increase is for four clerks for the accounts work for the River Police. That work has very materially increased owing to the opening of the workshop, which does a very large amount of repair work during the course of the year, and the increase of staff was necessary there. One of these appointments has since been abolished owing to the reduction in the number of river police-stations. Therefore, the whole of this

increase in staff is due to an increase in the accounting staff, and I think the Council will agree with me that it is true economy to have your accounts on a sound basis to be kept punctually and systematically. The increase, apart from the rise in the number, is due to reasons beyond the power of the Police Department to control, viz., it is due to the increase in the scales of pay recommended by the Ministerial Officers' Salaries Committee. I would therefore ask the Council not to reduce this amount.

The motion standing in the name of Babu Satish Chandra Mukharji was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motions were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 1,08,600 for launch, boat and elephant establishment under the head 'District Executive Force—Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 25,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 1,08,600 under the head '26C.—District Executive Force—launch, boat and elephant establishment' be reduced by Rs. 8,600."

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: "That the demand of Rs. 2,08,488 under the head '26C.—District Executive Force—Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 90,000."

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand of Rs. 13,89,000 under the head '26C.—District Executive Force—District Police—Travelling Allowance' be reduced to Rs. 10,00,000."

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 13,89,000 under the head '26C.—District Executive Force—District Police—Allowances, Honoraria, etc.' be reduced by Rs. 1,50,000."

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Fanindralal De Bahadur was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for travelling allowance in District Police, under the head '26C.' be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000."

The following motions were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA and SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand of Rs. 13,89,000 for travelling allowance under the head 'District Police' be reduced by Rs. 89,000."

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: "That the demand of Rs. 15,89,000 under the head '26C.—District Police—Allowances' be reduced by Rs. 3,30,000."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 7,00,000, for 'Contract Contingencies' under the head 'District Police' be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000."

Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand of Rs. 3,71,000 under the head "26C.—Police—District Police—District Executive Force—Clothing Charges (B.—Other Contingencies)" be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000.

Some time back, I moved a resolution in this House suggesting that some money should be set apart for giving medical relief in the rural areas. But, to our astonishment, we find that the figure of Rs. 1,50,000 that was proposed last year has been reduced to Rs. 12,000. Government do not think it at all necessary to provide for medical relief in the country, but they are very anxious to clothe the constables with new uniforms. When 1,000,000 people die without proper treatment in the country, it is not advisable to spend any money on a matter in which we can economize. I am neither a non-co-operator nor do I advertise myself as an oppositionist. But I must say that there is a strong feeling in the country against the police. The name of the police in every country carries with it a terror to the wrong-doers, but in this country it means terror to the people who are innocent. (Hear,hear!) Sir, the duty of every non-official member in this Council is to see that the Government becomes popular, and in order to gain popularity Government should try to gain the hearts of the people.

Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY: I rise to a point of order. Is the hon'ble member in order in referring to this matter?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Tanka Babu troubles us so seldom that I thought thought I might give him a little latitude.

Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI: I will not touch on any other head of expenditure under police, but I will only touch on the item of extra expenditure for clothing the police. They have been given an increase very recently and they could easily afford to go with the dress they have already got. With these words, I beg to place my amendment before the House.

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: I move that the demand of Rs. 3,71,000 under the head "26C.—District Executive Force—District Police—Clothing Charges" be reduced to Rs. 3,00,000.

The point in my amendment is that the figure which is kept for these clothing charges this year is also kept next year. What I want to say is that the price of clothing is going down year by year, and this provision, which is a considerable amount, will not be necessary, as it is expected that the prices will be lower.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The only reason that I could gather for wanting to reduce the clothing charges was that Babu Tanka-nath Chaudhuri was dissatisfied with the medical arrangements in the country and therefore he wished that the police should go naked. (Hear, hear!) In the police budget, the clothing charges, as they stand, are inadequate, and we are unable to give the full amount of uniform to the force and to the officers who are entitled to have them. We have been strongly pressed to provide sub-inspectors with uniforms—at present they have to buy their own uniforms. I think it is absolutely impossible to turn out your police and to make them do their duties unless you clothe them properly. I would strongly deprecate the Council reducing this item, as it is not sufficient as it is.

The motions were then put and lost.

The following motions standing in the name of Babu Annada Charan Dutta were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 70,000 for purchase of boats and stores for steamers, etc., under the head 'District Police—Supplies and Services and Contingencies' be reduced by Rs. 30,000."

"That the demand of Rs. 71,000 for Rewards under the head 'District Police—Supplies and Services and Contingencies' be reduced by Rs. 40,000."

The following motions were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: "That the demand for Rs. 25,17,700 for contingencies under the head '26C.—District Police' be reduced by Rs. 5,00,000."

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 25,17,000 under the head '26C.—District Executive Force—District Police—Supplies, Services and Contingencies' be reduced by Rs. 2,50,000."

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Fanindralal De Bahadur was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 25,17,700 for contingencies in District Police, under the head '26C' be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000."

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand of Rs. 41,000 under the head '26C—District Executive Force—District Police—Hospital Charges—Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons' be reduced to Rs. 38,000."

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: May I move motion No. 599 along with No. 604 which is consequential to the other?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Yes, please.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 3,600 for Inspectors under the head "Chittagong Port Police" be refused, and also that the demand of Rs. 1,092 for "House Rent and other allowances" under "Chittagong Port Police" be reduced by Rs. 500.

I saw the Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson in connection with these two amendments, and he assured me that he would look into the matter. I hope by this time the Hon'ble the Member has made up his mind to allow us these two cuts. Sir, the Port of Chittagong is merely a minor port. Its interests and expansion have been sacrificed to bigger interests. Its extent is very small, about one mile and a half along the Kornafuli, and a few feet on both sides. It is really part and parcel of the town itself. Formerly, Sir, we had only two inspectors in the whole of the district of Chittagong, one in charge of A division and the other of B division, the latter including the town itself. That was only a few years back, Sir, perhaps 5 or 7 years ago, but now three more inspectors have been put upon us. One goes by the name of Town inspector, another European inspector and the third is a Port inspector—superfluity in the superlative degree. Therefore, Sir, the budget itself will show that these posts are hardly necessary. We have got one inspector and under him one sub-inspector, two assistant sub-inspectors and two head constables and 12 constables. For the supervision of these we have got three inspectors, as if this could not be entrusted to either the Town inspector, the European inspector or the inspector of the A and B divisions as before. It is only adding to the number of certain appointments which, to say the least, are unnecessary and redundant. I do not know what work they are to do. In view of this I hope and trust that as economy is in the air—and I believe Government are sincerely inclined to effect economy—there will be no harm if these posts at least are abolished. And it is in this view that I press it upon the Council although it is rather a matter of local interest.

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 684 under the head '26C.—District Executive Force—Chittagong Port Police—Assistant Sub-Inspectors and Head Constables' be reduced to Rs. 385."

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand of Rs. 684 under the head '26C.—District Executive Force—Port Police, Chittagong—Assistant Sub-Inspectors and Head Constables' be reduced to Rs. 420."

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn :—

"That the demand of Rs. 2,460 under the head '26C.—District Executive Force—Chittagong Port Police—Constables' be reduced to Rs. 774 by disallowing the proposed increment of the numerical strength."

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn :—

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand of Rs. 2,460 under the head '26C.—District Executive Force—Port Police (Chittagong)—Constables' be reduced to Rs. 1,640."

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: Last year the Port Commissioners in Chittagong represented to Government that the number of police on duty in the port was not sufficient to maintain order in the port or to safeguard life. When a vessel came into port the small police force consisting of four constables was unable to cope with the *sampans* or keep them out of the way of the vessel. They could not prevent these boats getting round an incoming steamer and there was considerable danger to human life. They therefore asked Government for an increase of one Inspector and eight constables. I explained the facts last August to the Council, and in consideration of the fact that the Port Commissioners paid three-fourths of the pay of these men, the Council thought it was reasonable to suppose that the Port Commissioners as a business body would not have recommended that increase without going into it very thoroughly and were entirely convinced that it was absolutely necessary.

I think the Council will realize that the Port Commissioners of Chittagong cannot afford to throw away money and were not likely to spend money on an extra force if it was not needed.

With regard to the other point raised by Babu Annada Charan Dutta, that is, the question whether it is necessary to have an Inspector to look after the Port police force of Chittagong, I admit the police force is small consisting of only 12 constables and one sub-inspector and two head constables. I do not myself know the conditions at Chittagong, so I can only say that I will put the point to the Magistrate of Chittagong and find out whether it is possible to reduce this.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: After the assurance of the Hon'ble the Member that he will make inquiries in the matter, I beg leave to withdraw my motions.

The motions were then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

[At this stage the Hon'ble the President left the Chamber and the Chair was taken by Mr. Deputy-President.]

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I move that the demand for Rs. 27,600 under the head "26C.—District Executive Force—Other Police—Punitive Police" be refused.

Before I press my motion I would like to know what this demand is for. Is it in anticipation of any punitive measure that Government contemplate to take, or is it for meeting the expenses of any punitive measures which have already been taken? On hearing the details from the Hon'ble the Member, I will decide whether to press my amendment or withdraw it.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: This is, I think, a case of giving a dog a bad name and hanging him. I strongly objected to the word "punitive police" in the budget and it is not by my wish that it is there. The Police Act provides that when circumstances arise and Government is satisfied that there are not sufficient police in the district, they may appoint further police in that district, and if the circumstances justify, they may appoint this police at the cost of the inhabitants of the district. There is no such word as "punitive" police in the Act. The cost of this police is recovered from the inhabitants of the district and there is no actual expenditure on the part of the province. At the same time, owing to accounts difficulties, we have got to pay this police their monthly wages before we recover the cost from the people, and therefore, there is necessity for this provision in the budget from which we can draw before realizing from the people. It will be noticed that at the bottom of the page there are the words "deduct recovery" which means that there is no loss to the province. This amount, Rs. 27,000, is partly guess-work. We hope we shall not have any occasion to utilize it.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: May I ask a question, Sir? Was there any necessity for using any of this amount last year?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: Yes; there were five occasions on which the special police were appointed in the current year.

The motion was then put and lost.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand for Rs. 1,21,18,300 under the head "26C.—District Executive Force" be reduced by Rs. 20,00,000.

The total expenditure under this head is a little over Rs. 1,31,00,000. The Retrenchment Committee have recommended a reduction of a little over Rs. 15 lakhs. The substitution to a larger extent of Deputy Superintendents of Police for Assistant Superintendents and of Sub-Inspectors for Inspectors would lead to still further savings. As the Retrenchment

Committee point out, the creation of the post of Deputy Superintendent of Police was a measure adopted for increasing Indian representation in the higher ranks of the police. Now, this policy of Indianisation by addition to the strength of the police is wholly wrong, and we must insist that in future, Indianization should proceed by substitution and not by addition. Besides, if the scheme of the separation of Judicial and Executive functions be given effect to, it will be possible for the District Officer in most cases to combine the duties of a Superintendent of Police with his own. During the last ten years expenditure in the Police Department has more than doubled itself. The prevention of crimes and the detection of criminals should be the chief duties of the police. Now, Sir, how are these duties performed? It does not seem that there has been any appreciable decline in crime in recent years. Nor does the detective ability of our police force appear to have increased. The popular belief is that the police force is maintained, not for protecting the people, but for terrorizing and oppressing them. I can give the Council innumerable instances of oppression committed by the police which have come to my own notice. Indeed, to the man in the street, the police officer or the constable is a person who is to be shunned rather than one whose assistance should be sought in times of danger and difficulty. Now, Sir, either this fact, namely, this universal unpopularity of the police is known to Government, or it is not. If the Government is unaware of it, it shows that Government is not in touch with public opinion. If they are aware of the fact, then the conclusion cannot be avoided that the object of maintaining the police is not exactly what it ought to be. There is no denying the fact that the public regard the police expenditure as a huge burden. They would not have regarded it in this light if they were satisfied that the police existed for their benefit. The time has now come when the police should be told their duties or the burden of expenditure should be removed from the shoulders of the poor people, leaving them to take such measures for their own protection as they may find suitable.

Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY: I move that the demand of Rs. 1,21,18,300 under the head " 26C.—District Executive Force " be reduced by Rs. 2,94,000.

In placing this proposal before the Council, I plead for economy and request the House to lop off additions that have been made in spite of the fact that the financial position of the Bengal Government is deplorable and money cannot be found for works of public utility and in spite of the recommendations for reduction advocated by the Retrenchment Committee. The Committee have recommended large reductions. But as His Excellency the Governor has told us that the Government have not yet got time to consider these recommendations, I think, we, in this Council, should not now upset the existing arrangements.

I find, there have been additions to Assistant Superintendents and Deputy Superintendents. Large sums have been demanded for "Temporary District Intelligence Staff" and "Petty Constructions and Repairs." There has been an increase in "Travelling Allowances."

I want this Council to lop off these and thereby save about three lakhs of rupees.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: In regard to Babu Jogendra Nath Roy's motion, the House has already discussed most of the questions raised by him and passed the amounts demanded. He wishes to lop off the additions. As I tried to explain to the Council at the beginning, we have reduced the police budget by Rs. 9 lakhs gross and Rs. 2 lakhs nett, so that there are no additions to lop off.

As regards Dr. Banerjea's general attack on the cost of the police, his remedy appears to be to make the lower grade do the work of the upper without any pay. The Sub-Inspector to do the Inspector's work, the Inspector the Deputy Superintendent's and so on, but they are not to be paid anything more. If the Council is prepared to economize on these lines, no doubt there will be a very considerable saving, but it will be to the detriment of the contentment and efficiency of Government servants and will have to be applied to other departments also.

Then, Sir, he has touched on the question of the future of the police, when we have the separation of the judicial and the executive. The Council has already spent some hours recently in discussing this question of separation, and it is hardly the time now to reopen it.

Dr. Banerjea has inveighed against the increase in the Police Department. It is true, the cost of the police has increased, but so also has the cost of other services, but I think Dr. Banerjea might reflect that it is not only the cost of the police that has increased, but also the knowledge and organization of criminals have increased. Crime is not the simple affair it used to be a few years ago, and it requires greater expenditure of time, brain and energy to deal with crime as it is now compared with what it used to be 25 or 30 years ago. I fail to grasp Dr. Banerjea's logic as regards the unpopularity of the police. The argument apparently was that if Government are unaware of the unpopularity of the police, then Government ought not to be a Government; I quite admit that if Government are unaware of this unpopularity of the police, in the eyes of those who call themselves the representatives of the people, Government undoubtedly is not fit to be a Government. We have had this unpopularity dinned into our ears by some members of this House in season and out of season. But when he goes on to say that if Government do know the unpopularity of the police, then it is clear they are maintaining it for a nefarious purpose, I fail to see the logic of Dr. Banerjea's argument. Dr. Banerjea's remedy is to abolish the police and let everybody defend himself; that is a very admirable

scheme, if you can trust people to defend themselves only and not offend others——

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: May I ask a question? The Hon'ble the Member has referred to a cut of Rs. 9 lakhs, does it not include the unutilized provision for the revision of pay, and is it not a fact that only Rs. 3,63,000 has been actually saved?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: If Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri had done me the honour to listen to my introductory speech, he would have heard me say that this Rs 6 lakhs is the cost of the time-scale, and that even if we did not include anything extra we could not avoid this sum. If we had done nothing this year and proposed no increase or decrease we should still have had this increase of Rs. 6 lakhs for the time-scale. Therefore, Sir, the gross reduction in the budget, the reduction under other items is Rs. 9 lakhs.

The motion standing in the name of Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea was then put and lost.

The motion standing in the name of Babu Jogendra Nath Roy was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand of Rs. 34,140 under the head '26D.—Special Police—Bengal Military Police—Indian Officers' be reduced by Rs. 9,140."

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I move that the demand for Rs. 4,00,800 under the head "26D.—Bengal Military Police" be refused.

The Retrenchment Committee have recommended the disbandment of only one company of the force, but I think that they did not go far enough. That is why I move that the Bengal Military Police be totally abolished. Sir, the Bengal Military Police, or rather the Eastern Frontier Rifles—to give them the name by which they are known—consist of 843 men and officers, divided into seven companies, five of which are stationed at Dacca, one at Hooghly and another at Buxa. The cost of maintaining this force is shown in the budget for 1923-24 as Rs. 4,56,000. Sir, save and except Burma, Bengal is the only province in India which maintains a regular military force from the provincial revenues. And it is a sad irony of fate that Bengal, the most law-abiding and the least turbulent of all the Indian provinces, should require a military battalion to maintain her internal peace and order.

The Fraser Police Commission of 1902-03, in reviewing the situation in Bengal, made the following observations on the Bengal Military Police:—

In Bengal there is at every district headquarters a force of armed police called the "District Police Reserve" consisting as a rule of 25 men armed with smooth bore breech-

loading sniders. These men are not allowed to be used for any ordinary police duty without the sanction of the District Magistrate, the object of this rule being to ensure that there shall always be at headquarters a small force of well-drilled armed men, ready to go at a moment's notice to any point of danger. Bengal also has four companies of military police enlisted under a special Act and stationed at Dacca, Hooghly, Bhagalpur, and Dumka, but the Commission see no adequate reason for maintaining this force apart from the armed reserve. The military police are very seldom employed, and their existence leads to attention being given too exclusively to the discipline and efficiency of a very small part of the force, and to an undesirable emphasis being laid upon the military side of a police officer's duties, to the neglect of the large body of other duties which are much more important. The armed reserve can be trained to do efficiently all that is required, and the two forces should, therefore, be amalgamated.

This is the recommendation of the Police Commission of 1902. The Government of India considered their recommendation and passed the following orders:—

After careful consideration of the subject the Government of India have now decided (*i*) to approve the system of reserves proposed by the Police Commission for Madras, the Punjab, Bengal, Burma, the Central Provinces and Assam; (*ii*) to maintain the military police in Assam, Burma, and Bengal, and in the two former provinces, that is Assam and Burma, to look to this branch only of the police force for the maintenance of order in times of emergency.

This was the order of the Government of India. A distinction was made between the provinces of Assam and Burma and Bengal, and paragraph 41 of the Government of India's resolution clearly indicates that so far as Bengal is concerned, it was not the intention of the Government to make the Bengal Military Police so distinctly a military body as the military police of Assam or Burma. Evidently, in respect of training, equipment, and emoluments the Bengal Military Police was more to be in the nature of the "Special Armed Reserved" to be concentrated at suitable places and kept in reserve for despatch in emergencies. Unfortunately this special feature of the decision of the Government of India seems to have been overlooked by the Government of Bengal. They have organized the military police in Bengal on strictly military lines. And as far as I can gather from official papers, it appears that the chief reason for a distinct branch of the military police is that the Government did not approve of greatly increasing the ordinary district police for guarding against occasional disorders of an exceptional and widespread character and so in order to meet such situations it has been found necessary to have at convenient centres a well armed and disciplined force which can be sent out at a moment's notice to the scene of disturbance. Well, Sir, this was, however, the very reasoning which led to the creation of "Special Reserves" in the districts in 1892 and to which reference has been made by the Police Commission of 1902. It would not, therefore, be out of place to state here the strength and disposition of the "Special Reserves." In 1902 there were about 600 men who formed the special reserves for the entire province of Bengal as at present constituted. But the House will be surprised to hear that the number for the year 1921

is 4,605. From this it is evident that we now employ quite a large number of men as Special Armed Reserves apart from the military police, apparently for the same reasons for which the latter body is maintained; and we also find that we have considerably increased the number of the "Special Reserves" from what it was in the days of the last Police Commission. Further, the four companies of the military police were intended in 1902 for employment in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, but now in Bengal alone, over and above the largely increased "Special Reserves," we now maintain seven companies as the military police and I think I ought to mention here that the Bihar Government refused to maintain any military police. So the military police had to be transferred and maintained by the Bengal Government. So it is a bit difficult to understand what is actually meant by the authorities when they say that they would not greatly increase the district police. Now let us examine the occasions on which it was found necessary to employ the military force from the year 1912. First of all it is interesting to note that though a company was enrolled and stationed at Buxa-Duar in 1914 to guard the Bhutan frontier, there has not been a single occasion requiring employment of the same against any frontier tribe of Bengal. They have been simply idling away their time for the last nine years. Hence it appears that there is absolutely no foundation for the statement that a full company was required at Buxa to guard the Bhutan frontier and to prevent raiding. This use of the military police again is rather strange; for it is admitted that the function of the military police is to quell internal disturbances. Guarding the frontiers and to prevent raiding from foreign tribes should properly be the function of the military which is maintained by the Imperial Government and not by the Government of Bengal.

Then, again, the possibility of serious disturbances of a widespread nature extending simultaneously over several districts has been adduced as one of the grounds for the retention and employment of the military police. It appears that almost on all the occasions when the military police had to be employed it was intended to deal with local disturbances confined within small areas. Agrarian riots we have had none. And whenever collisions were apprehended between Hindus and Muhammadans, they were at Champdani, Telinipara, and Jagadal, three places lying very close to each other and within the mill areas near Calcutta and invariably for a very short period on the occasions of Bakr-Id or Muharram. So there is no question of a sudden emergency in these cases.

Then, Sir, we find that the military police had been employed in guarding the Turkish prisoners of war and in escorting the *Komagata Maru* rebels to the Punjab. These are hardly the duties of the provincial police and I need not discuss this aspect of the question at all. Another reason to which the necessity of a military police is ascribed is railway strikes and strikes of mill-hands and other political strikes. But

Sir, these things were a special feature of the year 1921 and the military police had to be employed. What the results were is too well-known to the House to be told here over again.

Mr. DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (Babu Surendra Nath Ray): You have reached your time-limit, Kumar Sahib.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: May I have two or three minutes more?

Mr. DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I can give you only one minute.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY : From what I have said above the only possible conclusion is that the recommendations of the Police Commission of 1902-03 are fully justified. If there had been no increase in the "Special Reserves" some excuse might have still been left, but the 75 per cent. increase in the "Special Reserves" coupled with another 75 per cent. increase in the military police for about half the area of the old province is, to say the least, unjustifiable.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand for Rs. 4,00,800 under the head "26D.—Special Police" be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000.

This department of Special Police is divided into two parts, viz., the Bengal Military Police, and the Frontier Police of Chittagong. The military police occupies a position intermediate between the military proper and the police proper. Students of the administrative history of India know that there was a large military police force in India in the days of the East India Company. But after the Sepoy Mutiny and the transfer of the Government of India to the hands of the Crown, the greater part of it was abolished. In announcing this abolition, Mr. James Wilson, the first Finance Member of India, condemned the system on the ground that the military police force occupied a very anomalous position and that it belonged neither to the Military Department nor to the Police. The defence of the country is a charge on the central revenues, and I desire to take this opportunity to urge that the military police force be either abolished or amalgamated with the Military Department.

There is another ground on which I object to its retention. It is sometimes used in terrorizing the people, as was done at Chandpur two years ago. In case, however, it be found impossible to abolish this force altogether, I would urge the retention of its strength by, say, one-half. As for the Frontier Police of Chittagong I do not know whether it is kept for the purpose of repelling foreign aggression——

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: On a point of order, Sir, the Frontier Police of Chittagong is a non-voted item.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: May I not even refer to it at all?

Mr. DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: You must confine your remarks to the voted portion only.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: May I have your ruling on this point, Sir? What happens in the case of a mixed grant? I may point out that in the Legislative Assembly discussion on non-voted items is allowed although they are not voted upon. The practice has been the same here for the last two years.

Mr. DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Here I find a provision which says—

The provisions of the said Act, which require proposals for expenditure by the Governor-General in Council and by the Local Government of Bengal to be submitted to the vote of the Legislative Assembly and of the Legislative Council of the Governor of Bengal, respectively, shall not apply to proposals for expenditure declared by the Governor-General or the Governor, as the case may be, to be for the purpose of the internal administration of these territories.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: In any case I urge that the amount demanded under this head be reduced by one-half.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I move that the demand for "Bengal Military Police" be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand under the head "26D.—Special Police—Bengal Military Police" be reduced by Rs. 29,000.

He spoke in Bengali. A translation of his speech is as follows:—

The expenditure for the military police of this country is greater than that of other countries. Therefore, the people do not like the military police. They have no common-sense and much of the discontent arises from that. The Chandpur incident is an instance. If I dwell upon this incident perhaps I shall be called to order. I would therefore refrain from doing so. Sir, the loyal Bengalis have done nothing of a serious character which justifies the maintenance of the military police in this country. I have not put in this motion for wholesale reduction under this head, but as recommended by the Retrenchment Committee, I move only for a reduction of Rs. 29,000. As the discussion on the Report of the Retrenchment Committee has been postponed till the July session of the Council, we have withdrawn a large number of motions, but that is no reason why this motion should not be carried. I would pointedly draw the attention of the Government to this matter and request the authorities to accept my motion, and thus remove the stigma which has hitherto attached to the Bengal Legislative Council.

Babu JATINDRA NATH BASU: I move that the demand for Rs. 4,00,800 under the head "26D.—Special Police—Bengal Military Police" be reduced by Rs. 10,000.

In moving my amendment I desire to call attention to the fact that the entire cost of the military police should not fall on provincial revenues. It has been pointed out already by some of the previous speakers that the military police force is practically a second line of the armed force of the Indian Empire. As a matter of fact during the war a very large number of officers and men attached to the military police force throughout India were drafted into the regular forces and they were exceedingly useful. So far as their training and equipment are concerned the men of the military police are almost as much useful as the men of the auxiliary forces. The Local Government should urge upon the Government of India that, having regard to the usefulness of the military police force for the purposes of the Central Government, the Central Government should contribute a substantial portion of the cost of the military police force. I do not agree with some of the speakers when they say that the military police force is not necessary. It is necessary both for dealing with external aggression and internal commotion. What I desire to urge upon the attention of the Government is that they should press the Government of India to pay a substantial part of the cost of upkeep of the military police force.

Rai Dr. HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand for Rs. 4,00,800 under the head "26D.—Special Police" be reduced by Rs. 31,000.

I move this motion for reducing the grant and my reason for doing so is based on the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee. The Retrenchment Committee recommend that the grant for military police should be reduced by Rs. 29,000 and that the band and pipes of the military police should be dispensed with, and so I propose to reduce the grant by Rs. 31,000.

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: I move that the demand for Special Police under the head "26D" be reduced by Re. 1.

The services of Special Police, I believe, is intended for two distinct purposes. First, in case of serious disturbances the military police is to help the ordinary police in restoring order, and secondly, to guard the frontiers against raids by savage and semi-savage tribes in the north and east. The necessity for the existence of the force, for the internal service, can be well understood and the public cannot reasonably grudge the expenditure for its maintenance, but it is difficult to follow why the cost of discharging the latter function should be a charge on our provincial revenues. It is really for the Central Government to maintain this force. I cannot, however, find out from the papers the exact amount

required for this purpose. I am compelled, therefore, to move a reduction of Re. 1 under this head, simply to know and lodge our emphatic protests against the adjustment.

[At this stage the Hon'ble the President returned to the Chair.]

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I beg to support Dr. Banerjea. The military police does not form a military unit nor is it a police unit. It is neither fish, nor flesh, nor good red herring. It has neither the efficiency of a military force nor the economy of an ordinary police force. It is surprising that in spite of the recommendations of the Government Police Committee to abolish the military police, it has been allowed to go on for the last 20 years. That Committee was presided over by no less a person than the late Sir Andrew Fraser and yet, in spite of their recommendations, that force has been going on for years and years. I am astonished to hear my friend, Mr. Jatindra Nath Basu, say that this military police force might be needed for external disturbances. May I ask him what external disturbances there have been within the last 20 years? What is this idea of bringing this terrible bug-bear before this Council and frightening the members to vote the grant? I am sure that if there had really been any external disturbances, then the military police would not have been of any use. If there is any general external disturbance, there is the army in Fort William which can be used to quell it.

As a member of the Police Retrenchment Committee, which was dissolved after the appointment of the General Retrenchment Committee, we had occasion to gather much evidence on the military police, and some of the non-official members of that Committee came to the conclusion that there was absolutely no necessity for the military police. Apart from any military consideration of having this force, the very constitution and nature of the formation of the force is repugnant to the people of this province. It is known to many members of this Council that this force is regarded as being kept simply to terrorize the people and it is well known that the sentiment and temperament of the people of Bengal are not known to the men composing this force. They work like barbarous machines because they are recruited from semi-barbarous people.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Who are these semi-barbarous people?

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I do not know by what name they are called. They belong to the hill tribes of Assam.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: They are British subjects.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Are they Abors or Mishmis?

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I do not know, but perhaps I had better call them semi-civilised people and not semi-barbarous. We have

seen their work at Chandpur and at Chittagong and from the experience that the people have of them and their work they are of opinion that these people are as terrible as the machine they wield. Their very presence is so repugnant to the people that they bring discredit to the Government. I should suggest to the Hon'ble the Member to withdraw this force from the Bengal Police altogether. The ordinary armed police can very well do their duty efficiently and economically.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I wish to take part in the discussion for various reasons. I had the honour of studying this subject very carefully for nearly six months when I was elected as a member of the Police Retrenchment Committee. The first idea that came to me was—why should this amount be a charge on provincial revenues? It was argued that this amount was spent for the purposes of protection of the province, and therefore, it has been considered as a charge on provincial revenues. If the hon'ble members of the House will refer to the history of the formation of the force they will be in a position to understand that it was formed for the purpose of protecting the country from foreign invasion. But notwithstanding the views expressed by the Police Commission we find that the force is still going on and the whole cost is borne by the province. If the object of this force is to prevent internal commotion then what is the necessity of having an armed police at such a heavy cost, at the same time? One thing is clear and that is that the country wants that this large amount should not be a charge on provincial revenues but on the central revenues. We are perfectly aware that there are disturbances in the country. Lately there was a disturbance at Telinipara and also at a place near Barrackpore, but would it not have been justified to employ the armed police for that purpose? Or was it necessary to have recourse to the necessity of the military police? I submit, Sir, that it is necessary to have an inquiry made into the matter; and if the provincial revenue is redeemed of such high charges it will be a matter of satisfaction to the country. We do not object to the employment of the military police, but we object to the payment of such a large sum from our revenues. Riots will occur every day. Such matters are quite expected, but is it for this purpose that we should have military police at Hooghly, at Dacca, and at Asansol? Where is the necessity for spending such a large sum of money. I put it before the Police Retrenchment Committee and I thought that the subject would be discussed there. I noticed that in the Police Retrenchment Committee it was discussed to some extent, but not to the full extent, and I think the Council should have an opportunity of discussing this matter specially when such a large sum is mentioned in the budget for their maintenance.

With these words I support the Kumar Sahib's motion.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: In this matter I agree with the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee. Beyond that I am not prepared to go. I therefore support Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri's amendment. To say that the military police are not at all required is to my mind going a little too far—(Hear, hear)—but it is certainly capable of large decrease in number. Everyone here excepting one gentleman has proposed its reduction—not the entire abolition of this military police—and that gentleman is singular in his "hear, hear." The Retrenchment Committee was composed of gentlemen who were extremist in their views about retrenchment, and I do not agree in most of their recommendations, but when even they after considering all the matters in this connection have come to a finding, I, standing here and knowing not as much as they did, am not prepared to disagree with them.

Maulvi RAFI UDDIN AHMED: I beg to support the motion of Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray. In my humble opinion there is absolutely no necessity for the military police. Those who have known them must say, that their only duty is to "eat, drink, and be merry" and nothing else. In the morning they drill for an hour or so and spend the whole day in eating and drinking and in the afternoon they also drill for an hour or so and then their duty is over. They do not even guard our streets or guard the treasury, they do no work for us and yet they are a charge on our public money. There is a separate Military Department and so they have no claims upon the Police Department. Their necessity is felt only in cases of great disturbance. And then there are the district reserve police, men at town out-posts in almost all districts, and men at Sadar thana and Court. Their services may be utilized and in case of great disturbances military men from Calcutta or elsewhere may be requisitioned. Those who want to reduce the military police by degrees and cannot agree amongst themselves as to how much should be reduced do not know the utility of these men. Otherwise they would have been unanimous in reducing the whole number. As public opinion is very strong in this respect, I hope an attempt must be made in this direction by the Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The Kumar Sahib has given us a long history of the military police in Bengal. The military police in Bengal dates back to long before the last Police Commission. It is quite true that the Police Commission did not recommend their continuance, but it is equally true that the local Government and the Government of India, who had possibly more local knowledge than the Police Commission, deliberately came to the conclusion that the Police Commission were wrong in their finding. Then, Sir, the Kumar has made a great play with comparison of the strength we now have and that we had in 1902, but he has omitted to give us the strength of the military in Bengal in 1902 and now. The company of the military police at Buxa took the

place of two companies of Native Infantry. The military police at Dacca took the place of Indian Infantry; at that time there were military at Ranchi: the military have comparatively recently been removed from Bhagalpur and there was comparatively a strong garrison at Fort William and these are facts that are to be taken into consideration. Again, he gave no indication of the difference in Bengal then and now. I would ask him to cast his mind back to the old days of 1902 and consider what was the industrial development around Calcutta then and what it is now, and how the population of Bengal has increased: how the industrial population has increased, and how the industrial unrest has increased. I think, Sir, that any member of the Council who seriously considers it must realize that at the present time there is an enormous industrial population not only all round Calcutta, but also in other parts of the province, and that it is absolutely necessary to have some force which is capable of dealing with either an organized or a sudden outbreak of those indisciplined forces. And with the growth of industrial unrest—which I hope will not be a permanent feature—the necessity of this force increases. Then, Sir, the question arises what should be the nature of this force. One speaker has said that we should utilize the military. But, Sir, the military entirely repudiate this obligation. For years past the military have been impressing upon the local Government that it is not their business to deal with local outbreaks of this kind—industrial, labour or any other kind of outbreak, that they are there for the purpose of repelling external aggresions and for the purpose of putting down widespread mutiny or sedition; but local disturbance, they say, is the business of the local Government and for years it has been getting more and more difficult to get the military to lend us assistance until matters get out of hand. Further, in the interest of military economy for which not only the members of the Assembly but the press in Bengal has been clamouring, the garrison in Calcutta has been made smaller than it used to be and the military authorities quite rightly are looking for every possibly form of economy. One of those is that when they lend us military for our purposes, they expect us to pay for them. If, Sir, we are to send a military force to Dacca, it is going to cost us a very considerable portion of this reduction which is now proposed. The military will be a much more expensive force for us to pay than our own military police.

Then, Sir, the second alternative proposed is the armed reserve which the Kumar Sahib made a great play of. These are for entirely different purposes—the armed reserve are district reserves. It is necessary that the police force of a district should be calculated on the number of thanas, on the number of men that each thana ought to have, and the miscellaneous duties they have to perform and so on. There is no reserve for putting down a local disturbance. For that purpose we have the armed reserve. At the time when the Police Commission sat, this armed reserve was generally 25 in a district. That has long been found to be utterly

inadequate and the armed reserves throughout the districts are now very much greater—75 to 100 in a district and in some cases more. The Kumar Sahib has told us that the armed reserve at the present moment is 4,605; but, Sir, these are not the striking forces. The armed reserves include all the men who are employed on escort duty, treasury guard, and the like. The actual number of men supposed to be always available in Bengal for putting down local riots is just under 2,000. But, Sir, those men are not always available, because the number of men put aside for escort duty, guarding treasuries, and so forth has always been inadequate. For years past the Inspector-General has been pressing on Government the necessity for increasing the armed reserve. The number of escorts which the police are now called upon to form is greater than before. The number of treasuries to guard is greater. Although the striking force of the armed reserve is not allowed to be used without the direct orders of the District Magistrate, in practice the District Magistrate cannot prevent it being deputed, because if treasure has got to be escorted to a subdivision, he has to send an escort. The result is that the armed reserve in each district are never up to sufficient strength to provide the striking force. Last year, the House will remember, there was a somewhat serious railway strike on the East Indian Railway. The military authorities provided all the men that they were able to do. We brought our own striking force from Dacca. More police still were wanted and on one occasion at the urgent request of the railway authorities, I desired very much to send 40 armed police to Asansol to guard the goods yard. It took me over a week to collect these 40 men through the Deputy Inspector-General and when I got them the strike had spread to Lillooah and the 40 men were sent to that place—I never got them at Asansol. These armed reserves are of no practical use to the province as a whole. You may be able to collect a certain number of your armed police, but it takes time, for the Deputy Inspector-General has to collect them from various districts. But, Sir, what we in Bengal are actually relying on at the present time is a striking force of 200 men, prepared always to move at a moment's notice and stationed at Dacca. There is another force of 150 men at Hooghly and I think even the Rai Bahadur will not contest the fact that a reserve striking force is required in the centre of the mill area. Then, Sir, there is a company at Buxa and that is the one referred to in the Retrenchment Committee's Report. That, Sir, as I have already said, took the place of two companies of Native Infantry. I admit that circumstances have changed. I admit that the possibility of their being required to repel external invasion of any kind is very remote, but what they are used for is this: they are stationed in the centre of a very wild country, and unless we have some police force there, whether armed or military police, the Bhutanese and other hill people who come down in large bodies in the cold weather will get out of hand and it will be impossible to control them. The police are not wanted to repel external

aggressions, but they are wanted to keep law and order among the large influx of indisciplined people coming from over the border.

Well, Sir, as regards the first motion to abolish the armed police, I can hardly think that there will be many members of this Council who will be prepared to abolish the only security we have against internal commotion, with the experience we have had in past years. Take, for instance, the railway strike. Had the railway strike lasted a little longer, had it spread a little further, had the coal been prevented from reaching the mills, what would have been the result? You have a force of something like half a million of workmen, and the Council can easily realize what the result would have been if there had been no armed police to control this large number of working men. We cannot use the military until the situation has got out of hand, until there has been rioting and looting. What we want is a force that we can have ready on the spot to prevent disorder arising. On the occasion of the East Indian Railway strike the moment we saw the trouble coming we had the Dacca striking force brought down here and they prevented the Howrah station from being wrecked, as they were on the spot at the time.

Then, Sir coming to other matters, I hardly think it can be——

[The Hon'ble the Member here reached the time-limit and was allowed by the Hon'ble the President continue.]

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I was given only one minute although I asked for five minutes.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Kumar Sahib, you forget that the Hon'ble the Member has to reply on behalf of Government to a very large number of motions.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I submit that the same consideration is not shown to non-official members.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That is a reflection on my impartiality. Will you please withdraw that remark at once?

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I withdraw that, but I say that I did not mean any offence.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: With regard to the other motions for reduction, I think the Council will agree that the striking force of 200 men at Dacca and a stationary force of 150 men at Hooghly and a possible reserve of 50 men at Buxa is not an unduly large force for an industrial province like Bengal.

Then, Sir, there are only one or two other points I wish to mention. Babu Jatindra Nath Basu moved his motion with the idea of getting the

Government of India to pay. Well, Sir, extracting money from the Government of India is almost like extracting blood from a stone. I have little hopes of being able to do anything in that line, especially as I say we can hardly claim that the military police are used for the purpose of withstanding external aggression, but I may perhaps let him into a secret that at present we are bargaining with the Government of India for the price of the barracks of the military police at Dacca. We have been in occupation of these barracks for a considerable number of years and we have not paid anything for them to the Government of India which means that the Government of India have contributed a considerable sum to the total cost of the military police. Then, Sir, the last question is about the company at Buxa. Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri moved his resolution with direct reference to the Retrenchment Committee's Report. As to that I can only say that we have not come to any conclusion with regard to that, and the possibility of reducing or withdrawing this company is under consideration. We are getting the opinion or rather we have got the opinion of the Inspector-General as regards what force will be required to be stationed there for the purpose of guarding the frontier if we take this company away, but we have not yet obtained the opinions, through the Commissioner, of the planters and others at Jalpaiguri who are deeply interested in the matter. Therefore, I would ask the member to wait till July next when some conclusion is likely to be arrived at in this matter as well as in many other matters.

Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray's motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea's motion was then put and a division taken with the following result: —

AYES.

Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakutuddin.
Ahmed, Mr. M.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Banerjea, Dr. Pramathanath.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tarakanath.
Choudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Choudhury, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Rahmatjan.
Choudhury, Maulvi Fazlai Karim.
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.
De, Rai Bahadur Panindralal.
Dess, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlai.
Mahramali, Munshi.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Maitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Mukherji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukherji, Professor S. C.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Krishna.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.
Suhrawardy, Mr. Huseyn Shaheed.

NOES.

Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Barton, Mr. H.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Birley, Mr. L.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Gorey, Mr. W. L.

Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Crawford, Mr. T. C.
Das, Mr. S. R.
De, Mr. K. C.
Deare, Major-General B. H.
DeLisle, Mr. J. A.
Donald, the Hon'ble Mr. J.
Donovan, Mr. J. T.
Emerson, Mr. T.
Farequi, Mr. K. G. M.
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
Huntingford, Mr. G. F.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Leslie, Mr. W. L.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the.
Marr, Mr. A.
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukerjee, Mr. S. C.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhone.
Phillip, Mr. J. Y.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Robertson, Mr. F. W.
Ray, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Bijoyprasad Singh.
Roy, Mr. C. N.
Roy, Mr. J. N.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Manilell Singh.
Stephenson, the Hon'ble Mr. H. L.
Stuart-Williams, Mr. S. C.
Travers, Mr. W. L.
Villiers, Mr. F. E. E.

The Ayes being 28 and the Noes 45, the motion was lost.

Babu Annada Charan Dutta's motion was then put and lost.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The question before the House is that the demand for Rs. 4,00,800 under the head "26D.—Special Police" be reduced by 31,000.

As many as are in favour of that will say "Aye"; those of the contrary opinion will say "No."

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I ask for a division.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I have not yet declared the fate of the motion.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think the "Noes" have it.

Nobody rising for a division, the motion was then declared lost.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I ask for a division.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You asked for a division before I declared the result. Now you ask for it after I have declared the result. You must realise that you have to act according to certain accepted principles. I give plenty of time to call for a division and you must take advantage of it. If you so desire, you can have a division on the next motion.

Shah Syed Emdadul Haq's motion was put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Ahmed, Maulvi Rab Uddin.
Ahmed, Mr. M.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Banerjea, Dr. Pramathanath.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Kiharan Chandra.
De, Rai Bahadur Panchanlal.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.

Khan, Khan Syed Emdadul.
Khan, Maulvi Fazlai.
Mukhopadhyay, Bhupati.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Mitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Krishna.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.
Suhrawardy, Mr. Hussyn Shaheed.

NOES.

Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Barton, Mr. H.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Birley, Mr. L.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Carey, Mr. W. L.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Chaudhury, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Rahmatjan.
Chowdhury, Maulvi Fazlal Karim.
Crawford, Mr. T. G.
Das, Mr. S. R.
De, Mr. K. C.
Deare, Major-General B. H.
Dellale, Mr. J. A.
Donald, the Hon'ble Mr. J.
Donovan, Mr. J. T.
Emerson, Mr. T.
Faroqui, Mr. K. G. M.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
Hostingford, Mr. G. T.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Leslie, Mr. W. L.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the.
Marr, Mr. A.
McAlpin, Mr. M. G.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukerjea, Mr. S. C.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhone.
Phillip, Mr. J. Y.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Robertson, Mr. F. W.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Bijoyprasad Singh.
Ray, Mr. G. N.
Roy, Mr. J. N.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Ray, Raja Manilell Singh.
[illegible] the Hon'ble Mr. H. L.
Stuart-Williams, Mr. S. C.
Travers, Mr. W. L.
Villiers, Mr. F. E. E.

The Ayes being 22 and the Noes 45, the motion was lost.

Babu JATINDRA NATH BASU: I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai Fanindralal De Bahadur's motion was put and lost.

At this stage the Council was adjourned for 15 minutes.

After the adjournment.

The following motions standing in the name of Babu Satish Chandra Mukharji were, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 36,000 under the head '26E.—Railway Police—Eastern Bengal Railway Police—Inspectors' be reduced by Rs. 14,400."

"That the demand of Rs. 67,920 under the head '26E.—Railway Police—Eastern Bengal Railway Police—Sub-Inspectors' be reduced by Rs. 12,480."

"That the demand of Rs. 16,620 under the head '26E.—Railway Police—Eastern Bengal Railway Police—European Constables be reduced by Rs. 3,600."

"That the demand for Rs. 33,996 under the head '26E.—Railway Police—Eastern Bengal Railway Police—Assistant Sub-Inspectors and Head Constables' be reduced by Rs. 8,400."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 1,25,916 under the head "26E.—Railway Police—Constables" be reduced by Rs. 3,000; and the demand for Rs. 6,46,900 under the head "26E.—Railway Police" be reduced by Rs. 46,900.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand for Rs. 6,46,900 under the head "26E.—Railway Police" be reduced by Rs. 52,000.

All that I wish to say in respect of the motion is that it is based on the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee.

The following motion standing in the name of Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 6,46,900 under the head '26E.—Railway Police' be reduced by Rs. 40,000."

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The first motion is to reduce the provision for the constables in the Eastern Bengal Railway Police by Rs. 3,000. I presume this refers to the increase in the number of constables shown in the budget. The increase is due to the growing importance of Mymensingh and Singjani and some other stations owing to the opening of various branch lines and the staff in those places was increased for reasons I explained to the Council last August.

As regards the Retrenchment Committee's recommendation, that was to the effect that we might get rid of a certain amount of investigating staff by not taking up petty cases on railways, and that matter is before Government at present. I may say that the railways are very strongly opposed to the recommendation on the ground that the investigating staff is scattered over the whole railway and there is rarely more than one officer at a station and that the public will resent it extraordinarily if the investigating sub-inspector remains in his own quarters and declines to take any notice of the reports of theft, robbery, etc. Even though the possibility of recovery of stolen articles is very remote it does give a certain amount of satisfaction and comfort to a man whose property is stolen if he receives a sympathetic hearing from the sub-inspector and an assurance that he will look into the matter. As I have said the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee is under the consideration of Government but no orders have so far been passed on it.

The motions standing in the names of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq and Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri were put and lost.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: In view of the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee I beg formally to move that the demand for Rs. 6,88,800 under the head "26F.—Criminal Investigation Department" be reduced by Rs. 30,000, i.e., by the amount required for the pay, establishment, allowances and contingencies for the Deputy Inspector-General of the Criminal Investigation Department.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand for Rs. 25,800 on account of the salary of the Deputy Inspector-General under the head "26F.—Criminal Investigation Department" be refused.

The Retrenchment Committee pointed out that there is no need for the retention of a post of Deputy Inspector-General in the Criminal Investigation Department. I agree with that opinion of the Committee and urge this post be abolished.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: The Criminal Investigation Department costs us too much and it appears to be a highly top-heavy department. In view of that I move that the demand for Rs. 16,560 for the pay of Gazetted Officers under the head "26F.—Criminal Investigation Department" be refused.

The members being absent the following motions standing in their names were deemed to be withdrawn:—

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 16,560 under the head '26F.—Criminal Investigation Department—Other Gazetted Officers' be reduced to Rs. 11,040."

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand of Rs. 81,960 under the head '26F.—Criminal Investigation Department—Clerks' be reduced to Rs. 60,000."

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand of Rs. 85,500 under the head '26F.—Criminal Investigation Department—Inspectors' be reduced to Rs. 80,000."

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand for Rs. 4,07,816 under the head "26F.—Criminal Investigation Department—Pay of Establishment," be reduced by the amount required for the pay of 9 Inspectors, 5 Sub-Inspectors, 6 Assistant Sub-Inspectors and 15 Constables.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You must mention a sum.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I propose that the demand be reduced by Rs. 35,000. This motion is also based on the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee. The Committee in their report say—

Our recommendations involve the abolition of the following posts in the Criminal Investigation Department in addition to the Detective Training School:—1 Deputy Inspector-General, 4 deputy superintendents, 9 inspectors, 5 sub-inspectors, 6 assistant sub-inspectors, and 15 constables.

The sum of Rs. 4,07,816 which has been budgeted here is on account of the pay of these officers and other things and I propose that the demand be reduced by Rs. 35,000.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand for Rs. 1,38,778 for temporary force under the head "26F.—Criminal Investigation Department—Pay of Establishment" be refused.

The actual expenditure under this head in 1921-22 was Rs. 60,676 only. Since then expenditure under this head has enormously increased and it is being further increased to Rs. 1,38,758. The Criminal Investigation Department in the other provinces is worked at a comparatively smaller expenditure and I do not see any reason why we should spend so much for criminal investigation in this province. As I do not think Bengal is a more criminal province than the United Provinces or Madras, and as in the matter of political offences the situation in Bengal is far better than in that of other provinces, I propose that the provision for temporary force under this head be refused.

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Satish Chandra Mukharji was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 1,38,778 under the head '26F.—Criminal Investigation Department—Temporary Force' be reduced to Rs. 1,00,000."

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: I move that the demand for "Temporary Force—Criminal Investigation Department," under the head "26F." be reduced by Rs. 22,000.

My reason for moving this reduction is that there is an increase over last year's expenditure and also that the political outlook is improving. The Government, therefore, might see their way to reduce the establishment.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 1,38,778 under the head "26F.—Criminal Investigation Department—Temporary Force" be reduced by Rs. 14,000; and that the demand of Rs. 55,000 under the head "26F.—Criminal Investigation Department—Secret Service Money" be reduced to Rs. 50,000.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn :—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 2,600 under the head '26F.—Criminal Investigation Department—Purchase and maintenance of motor cars' be refused."

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Satish Chandra Mukharji was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn :—

"That the demand of Rs. 5,000 under the head '26F.—Criminal Investigation Department—Clothing Charges' be reduced to Rs. 3,000."

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn :—

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 1,54,400 for contingencies in the Criminal Investigation Department under the head '26F.' be reduced by Rs. 50,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 6,88,800 under the head "26F.—Criminal Investigation Department" be reduced to Rs. 85,000.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn :—

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 6,88,880 under the head '26F.—Criminal Investigation Department' be reduced by Rs. 3,50,000."

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand for Rs. 6,88,800 under the head "26F.—Criminal Investigation Department" be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000.

This is a very modest proposal. The Retrenchment Committee have recommended cuts in various parts of this department, and the total reduction they have proposed in this department and its sister department, namely, the Criminal Intelligence Department, is over Rs. 6 lakhs. I hope the Hon'ble the Member in charge will see his way to accept this motion.

The following motion standing in the names of Rai Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta Bahadur and Professor S. C. Mukherji was, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn :—

"That the demand of Rs. 6,88,800 under the head '26F.—Criminal Investigation Department' be reduced by Re. 1."

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: The first few motions under discussion refer to the Deputy Inspector-General of the Criminal Investigation Department. That, Sir, is a sum which is shown as voted because at the time the budget was drawn up the officer in charge of it was an officer who was appointed here, and therefore, under the Accountant-General's ruling his pay is voted. At the present moment the officer in

charge of it is an officer who was appointed by the Secretary of State and his pay, therefore, is non-voted.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Therefore, it will be out of order to discuss it.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: Perhaps if I explain, the simplest method would be for the member to withdraw his motion. What he is really aiming at, I think, is the abolition of the appointment of Deputy Inspector-General, Intelligence Branch. That appears in the next page of the budget under temporary force—non-voted. Well, Sir, we have agreed to abolish that temporary appointment. I do not say that we will not re-make it if the situation demands it. In that case we shall come to the Council. Anyhow we are abolishing it now. At the present moment there is nobody holding it, and therefore, if that is what both the movers are aiming at, then perhaps they would withdraw their motions, on my undertaking that the appointment will not be filled.

The next item is the pay of gazetted officers. That, Sir, refers to three permanent Deputy Superintendents: two of them are in the Criminal Investigation Department and one in the Intelligence Branch. I admit that the Criminal Investigation Department and the Intelligence Branch are very confusing indeed to the outsider and perhaps it will clear the ground if I explain to the Council exactly what the positions are as regards these. The Criminal Investigation Department has nothing whatever to do with politics.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I am glad to hear it.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: It is devoted to chasing down criminals of another type. It has a temporary section of dacoity and a temporary section of criminal tribes to which the Retrenchment Committee referred. The Intelligence Branch is devoted entirely to political work, and the provision for that is entirely under temporary force. I am wrong there. There is quite a small permanent Intelligence Branch who appear under the permanent grades in the Criminal Investigation Department but the bulk of the Intelligence Branch is on a temporary basis and appears under the provision of temporary force. Now, Sir, take the Intelligence Branch first. We have agreed to keep vacant this temporary appointment of the Deputy Inspector-General, Intelligence Branch. As regards the other recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, the staff which we propose to employ next year is practically the same as the staff recommended by the Retrenchment Committee. There are slight alterations, that is to say, we propose to cut out one Superintendent out of the two which the Retrenchment Committee would give us; we propose to cut out one inspector and one sub-inspector out of the number which the Retrenchment Committee allow us and in the place of these three we propose to retain three Deputy Superintendents

which the Retrenchment Committee propose to abolish. Those are details, the exact reasons for which I need not go into now, but the practical effect is that we are retaining the same number as the Retrenchment Committee say we are justified in having and at practically the same cost. Therefore, so far as the Intelligence Branch is concerned, Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri's motions which are based on the Retrenchment Committee's Report are practically met.

Then, Sir, as regards the Criminal Investigation Department, the Retrenchment Committee have proposed the abolition of certain definite appointments which are detailed in the original motion of Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri. It is a little difficult to follow the Retrenchment Committee's Report and especially to follow them in the matter of savings. I have not yet been able to discover how they are going to save Rs. 6 lakhs. If Dr. Banerjea has worked it out, I should be gald if he would let me know how he did it. Practically what the Retrenchment Committee's proposals do come to is that we shall retain the whole permanent staff of the Criminal Investigation Department; that we shall keep a small number of them at headquarters and divide up the others among the Range Deputy Inspectors-General and we shall abolish the Criminal Tribes section which is on a temporary basis and the temporary dacoity section. Well, Sir, it practically comes to this. The real point is, are all these men in the Criminal Investigation Department fully occupied and is there work enough for them? The Retrenchment Committee have taken the figures of two years back as regards the number of cases of professional crime which this department deals with, but I do not think that that is quite the right way; because there is no doubt that there is a very large number of cases of that kind of professional crime which could very well be dealt with with excellent results by the Investigation Department if they could devote their time to them. What happened was that the Criminal Investigation Department devoted much of their time to dacoity cases. I am now finding out with the Inspector-General on what work every man, temporary or permanent, in the Criminal Investigation Department, was employed during the whole of last year. I find that 17 wholetime officers were employed on these professional crime cases other than dacoities, against the 4 men that the Retrenchment Committee propose we should have. Therefore, if we reduce, we shall have to leave out that amount of work. Therefore, as I say, the whole point is—Is this staff wasteful in the sense that it has not been properly employed or that the full time of the men has not been occupied? If so, then it is quite clear that the Investigation staff should be reduced. On that point, Government have yet an open mind until they have gone into the suggestions of the Retrenchment Committee.

As regards the other portion of their recommendation, which is after all only the transfer of men from the central office to the several ranges, that is a question whether it is more economical to keep your whole staff

at headquarters or to divide it amongst various places. That is also a point in which I require further consideration before I am prepared to accept the Retrenchment Committee's Report. So far as the Retrenchment Committee's recommendations are concerned, there is no room at the present moment for any of these cuts. The matter is under the investigation of Government, and I am doubtful myself so far whether there will be any economy in doing what the Committee recommend. In any case, Sir, the reduction in the provision for the department will not lead to any advantage.

The following motions were then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: "That the demand for Rs. 6,88,800 under the head '26F.—Criminal Investigation Department' be reduced by the pay, establishment, allowances and contingencies for the Deputy Inspector-General of the Criminal Investigation Department."

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: "That the demand for Rs. 25,800 on account of the salary of the Deputy Inspector-General under the head '26F.—Criminal Investigation Department' be refused."

The following motions were then put and lost:—

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: "That the demand for Rs. 16,560 for the pay of Gazetted Officers under the head '26F.—Criminal Investigation Department' be refused."

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: "That the demand for Rs. 4,07,816 under the head "26F.—Criminal Investigation Department—Pay of Establishment,' be reduced by the amount required for the pay of 9 Inspectors, 5 Sub-Inspectors, 6 Assistant Sub-Inspectors and 15 Constables."

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: "That the demand for Rs. 1,38,778 for temporary force under the head '26F.—Criminal Investigation Department—Pay of Establishment' be refused."

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: "That the demand for 'Temporary Force—Criminal Investigation Department,' under the head '26F.' be reduced by Rs. 22,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 1,38,778 under the head '26F.—Criminal Investigation Department—Temporary Force' be reduced by Rs. 14,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 55,000 under the head '26F.—Criminal Investigation Department—Secret Service Money' be reduced to Rs. 50,000."

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: "That the demand for Rs. 6,88,800 under the head '26F.—Criminal Investigation Department' be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 6,88,800 under the head '26F.—Criminal Investigation Department' be reduced to Rs. 85,000."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 1,41,54,200 under the head "26B to F—Bengal Police" be reduced by Rs. 15,00,000.

My motion is intended to discuss the policy of the Government in the Police Department as well as to show how retrenchment may truly be effected under some of the various heads.

I suppose we ought to be thankful to the Hon'ble the Member for the retrenchment that he has already effected in the present budget, and for a further retrenchment that he promises to make as a result of many sleepless nights. Sir, I would be extremely unwilling to grudge him his nightly repose, but, Sir, would it not have been better, if the various departments had made this revised scrutiny before the budget was presented? Would it be an exaggeration to suggest that had it not been for these innumerable motions of reduction or refusal of grants sent by the non-official members, this vigorous scrutiny and the post-budget reduction might not have been effected at all? I understand that the financial position to-day is that instead of a deficit, we have a surplus of a few lakhs. If these reductions had been provided for in the original budget, would it not have saved the Government the great odium of presenting a deficit budget? I have been charged with undue optimism coupled with an unseemly desire to rush things through. May I not charge the Government with undue pessimism, lack of initiative, and an almost insuperable objection to alter the existing order of things, unless their hands are forced? May I not request the Hon'ble the Member to have some more imagination so that he may look at the Police Department from the view-point of a non-official Indian who is really anxious to do his duty? He will then see that police-baiting is not a fad of ours—he will then see that we have no less a stake in the country—nay, we have even a greater stake than they have—he will then see that idiosyncracy is not a strong point with us—he will then see that it is our abiding interest to see public order maintained. He will also see that we want an efficient police—we want a police which is truly efficient in the ordinary discharge of their duties, and not merely a police, who has the

prestige of efficiency in departmental files, Government reports, and gubernatorial addresses. In our daily dealings with the police, it has been mentioned in this Council, we find that they have a firm belief that even if they do wrong, they will have the utmost support of the Government. These are not vague general statements. If you will permit me, Sir, I may mention a case—a case which is known to me personally, where a postal inspector and a police sub-inspector were charged with the same offence. I will not discuss the merits of the case here to-night.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Is the case *sub judice?*

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Yes, Sir.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Then you should not refer to it at all. It is quite unfair.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: We have found, Sir, from personal knowledge that the police officers believe that they will always have the support of the Government with them. Sir, during the last rains His Excellency the Governor, in distributing some police medals at Dacca on the 22nd July last, said:—

> In England, I honestly believe the members of the force are as much the daily friends, helpers, and benefactors of the law-abiding poor, as they are the terror of the law-breakers. If, and why, this is not so in India, I have yet to learn.

This is a point, Sir, we have more than once brought before the Council. In England and other European countries, the police are regarded as friends of the public, whereas here they are not so regarded. We have been told that the people do not care to mix with the police. I am glad that the answer to this question has been given by an Indian police officer in his presidential address before the British Indian Police Conference last year, when he said that in the discharge of their duties Indian police officers are deliberately discouraged by their superior officers from freely mixing with the people. Is it then any wonder, Sir, that the people look with suspicion on the police? It is all very well to blame the people that they do not come round to the police, but is it not the duty of the police, who are here to maintain public order, to go and freely mix with the people—even the really law-abiding people—and seek their co-operation? Unless this is done, I am afraid that the bad name of the police will continue for ever. May I request the Hon'ble the Member in charge to issue circulars to superior police officers to allow their subordinates to mix freely with the people? Sir, I have often been the target of ridicule for bringing up in season and out of season the subject of the Indianization of the Services. If you will permit me, Sir, I will just touch on this point here. In the Police Department of all departments, it is absolutely necessary that these officers should know the language of the country, should know the manners, the customs of the people as well as the people themselves. Unless this is done, no

efficient police officer could be trained. Therefore, I suggest, Sir, that in the superior cadre of the police service, we should have more Indians who have the better advantage of knowing the language, the customs, and the manners of the people over whom they hold charge. (Hear, hear.)

It is a painful subject to have to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble the Member that during the last two years the number of dacoities has been increasing considerably, specially in our part of the country. May I ask the Hon'ble the Member what steps the police have taken to prevent and detect these dacoities? I know it for a fact that in the Brahmanbaria subdivision of the district of Tippera, the people are seriously thinking of going away from the villages and living elsewhere for fear of these dacoities. If this is the way the Police Department is managed, is it any wonder that people do not believe in their efficiency? Sir, the question of the Railway Police, of the Military Police, and of the River Police has been discussed to-day. We have not been able to carry all our points. I earnestly appeal to the Hon'ble the Member in charge that these points have often and often been urged by the popular view and it is up to the Government to accept these points, although they have not been accepted by a vote of this pliable Council. (Hear, hear.) We have been able to carry to-day a considerable cut in the Intelligence Branch of the Police Department. I hope, Sir, that the Hon'ble the Member would be pleased to accept that cut in addition to the cut of Rs. 1,60,000 that he has already promised from the demand of this department, and I sincerely appeal to His Excellency, through you, not to restore this amount; if the country's opinion were taken, I am sure that it would vote for the total abolition of the District Intelligence Branch.

As regards the abolition of the Deputy Inspectors-General, the Retrenchment Committee have made their recommendation and some members of the Council have expressed their opinion. It seems that there is a considerable opinion in this Council that the Retrenchment Committee has not gone far enough. It has been said that where the Retrenchment Committee fears to tread, we, the members of Council, rush in. I should like to point out that in the Police Department the Retrenchment Committee has not touched the Imperial police. It ought to have gone farther. I would like to suggest to the Hon'ble the Member that he should overhaul this department altogether and find his way to accede to a longer cut than has been suggested by the Retrenchment Committee.

Mr. BIJOYPROSAD SINGH ROY: I move that the demand for Rs. 1,73,31,200 under the head "26—Police" be reduced by Rs. 1,60,000.

This is a very modest sum not even one-hundredth part of the total demand. Sir, the Retrenchment Committee have suggested a cut of about Rs. 38 lakhs from this department, but as Government requires

some time in considering these recommendations and even admitting that the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee are based on wrong figures, I think some of their recommendations are very sound and must be given effect to if the Government propose to make any retrenchment at all. So I have ventured to suggest this small reduction of Rs. 1,60,000 under the following different heads:—

22.—Presidency Police, non-contract charges, which include the expenditure on telephones.

The officers of the Calcutta Police appear to enjoy an abundance of telephones and I think that a reasonable reduction could easily be made under this head.

There is a demand of 22 more clerks and assistants. Their number was 82 last year and this year it is 110. Their pay ranges from Rs. 1,527 (taking Rs. 30 as average) to Rs. 7,920. In these days of retrenchment, I am sure the authorities of the Calcutta Police do not expect the Council to agree to increase the number of clerks. In this connection, I beg to remind the House that, under the time-scale of pay, the pay of these clerks will be an increasing burden on the provincial purse.

There is a provision for 40 more constables, which means about Rs. 10,000.

Then, there are provisions for one more inspector, one more sub-inspector and four sergeants, and the total increase under this head is over Rs. 15,000.

In the Bengal Police, I propose a reduction of Rs. 25,000, under the head of River Police from the amount of Rs. 70,000 provided for the purchase of boats, etc.

I also propose a reduction of Rs. 45,000 from the expenditure on the head of the Police Training College; and Rs. 10,000 from the Secret Service Fund.

This brings me to the total amount of Rs. 1,60,000 and I hope the Hon'ble the Member will find it possible for him to accept my proposal for the reduction of this amount.

The following motions were, in the absence of the movers, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 1,73,31,200 under the head '26.—Police' be reduced by Rs. 10,00,00 from the provision for Police other than the Presidency Police."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the demand under the head '26.—Police' for items other than travelling allowance be reduced by Rs. 15,00,000."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the demand of Rs. 16,40,586 for travelling allowances under the head '26.—Police' be reduced by Rs. 4,10,145."

Babu HEM CHANDRA NASKER: "That the demand for Rs 1,73,31,000 under the head '26.—Police' be reduced by Rs. 10,52,000."

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: "That the demand of Rs. 1,73,31,000 under the head '26.—Police' be reduced by Re. 1."

The Hon'ble Mr. H. L. STEPHENSON: At this late hour, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta will not expect me to make a reply to his speech which I listened to with the greatest interest. We are all concerned in improving the police and we would all like them to be more popular. We may differ as to the reasons for their unpopularity, but I think none of us believe that the police is without faults or is impossible of improvement. But I would suggest that if the police were not so perpetually attacked, there would not be the same reason for Government to be so perpetually defending them. The excesses on one side naturally lead to excesses on the other—(Hear, hear)—and if there were a more moderate tone on their side, there would not be any necessity for defending the police force in season and out of season. Government have no wish whatever to protect the policeman who is in fault, but it is so very difficult, when so much mud is thrown at the police, to decide when he is in fault; and when a policeman has so many enemies, Government cannot take the risk of throwing him overboard. When Government is satisfied that a policeman is to blame, the last thing which the Government want to do is to save him from the consequences. But, as I say, when so much mud is thrown at the policeman, it obscures the issues, it prevents the Government from coming to a conclusion whether the policeman is guilty or not.

I join in the great regret expressed by Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta at the prevalence of dacoities. The number has increased enormously during the last 10 years or so from something like 300 to a total of 1,000 last year. Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta has asked what is being done about it. The Inspector-General of Police and his officers are of opinion that the only real method of coping with the dacoities is first of all to break the different gangs by instituting gang cases or by bringing them under the Criminal Tribes Act; and secondly, by means of patrols when a particular locality is affected, and that is the way we try to deal with a special outbreak. We draft the armed police reserve, of which we have heard so much this afternoon, from other districts into the district particularly affected, and we do our best to meet the outbreak of dacoity by an organised system of patrols over the affected area.

Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh Roy will not perhaps expect me to go into the details by which he made up his total cut. I understand it to be a general cut, but he apparently tried to bring in a considerable number of items, most of which we have already discussed. As I said in the beginning when introducing this vote, we are doing our best to keep

down the expenditure and I claim that we are doing it honestly. Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta has insinuated that we could do a great deal more and that we have only done this as a large number of motions were put in. But I do think that we should be given the credit for the work we have done in scrutinizing every item of expenditure, and the expenditure that we are cutting is not redundant expenditure but it is being cut in our opinion at the expense of efficiency. The point we have now to determine is at what point of efficiency shall we stop. Well, Sir, I had laboriously calculated by pruning here and pruning there, a little in the River Police, a little in the Training School, a little more in the Intelligence Branch, and so forth ,I could have reduced the total vote of expenditure by another Rs. 1½ lakhs. But, now, the vote of this Council this afternoon makes that impossible. The Council have reduced Rs. 94,000 out of a vote of Rs. 1,94,000; and practically the whole of that vote is establishment. I cannot forecast in the least what action His Excellency will take in the matter, as it is not one with which I am concerned. Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta has expressed the hope that this demand will not be restored. I cannot say anything about it, because the matter rests with His Excellency. But I cannot dismiss Rs. 94,000 worth of district investigation staff; I have got to provide for them and the Council has decided so far that they are not to be employed in district intelligence work. Then they must be employed in ordinary district work. I have got to absorb them and to pay them out of the money that I hoped I might be able to reduce out of the total of voted items.

Therefore, Sir, if Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh Roy is prepared to reduce his cut to one of Rs. 75,000, I shall be willing to accept it. I wish I could accept the whole cut, but the action of the Council this afternoon by throwing on me this additional staff to maintain without voting the money has made it impossible for me to accept the whole cut asked for.

Mr. BIJOYPROSAD SINGH ROY: After the statement made by the Hon'ble the Member in charge I am prepared to amend my motion by substituting "Rs. 75,000" for "Rs. 1,60,000."

The motion of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh Roy was put in the following amended form and agreed to:—

"That the demand for Rs. 1,73,31,200 under the head '26.—Police' be further reduced by Rs. 75,000."

The original demand under the head "26.—Police" as amended in Council, was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till 3 P.M. on Thursday, the 22nd March, 1923, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 22nd March, 1923, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President in the Chair, the four Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council, the three Hon'ble Ministers, and 98 nominated and elected members.

Oath.

The following members made an oath of their allegiance to the Crown:—

Mr. J. W. A. BELL.

Mr. C. G. COOPER.

Starred Questions

(to which oral answers were given).

Release of prisoners convicted under the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

***LXXV. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state the reasons which led the Government to issue the notification of the 29th November, 1922, in the *Calcutta Gazette* withdrawing the notifications of the 18th November, 1921, against all volunteer organizations in the province?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of releasing at an early date all persons who were convicted in accordance with the notifications withdrawn?

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): (*a*) In view of the general improvement in the political situation Government considered that the provisions of the notification, dated the 18th November, 1921, were no longer necessary.

(*b*) The withdrawal of the notifications referred to does not affect the position of persons convicted under the Criminal Law Amendment Act before the notification was withdrawn. There are in fact only three such persons now in jail.

Visit of Superintendent, Archæological Survey, Eastern Circle, to Darjeeling.

*LXXVI. **Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to say what work was done by Mr. K. N. Dikshit, officiating Superintendent, Archæological Survey, Eastern Circle, who "by the end of October paid a visit to Darjeeling" as stated by him in his Annual Report for 1920-21?

(*b*) What was the amount drawn by him as travelling allowance and halting charges for the said visit and for his return to the headquarters?

(*c*) What pay does he draw at present?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether any one, either an assistant or any menial, accompanied him in his visit?

(*e*) If so, what was the amount of the travelling allowance and halting charges of such assistant or menial?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter): (*a*) The Director-General of Archæology had proposed that Darjeeling should be the headquarters of the Superintendent, Archæological Survey, Eastern Circle, and the Superintendent proceeded to Darjeeling to settle the question of location of his office. The Superintendent also inspected two monuments, viz., tombs of Ksoma-de-Koros and General Lloyd that were on the books of the Archæological Department.

(*b*) Rs. 204-6-0 as travelling allowance and Rs. 10 as halting charges.

(*c*) Rs. 550.

(*d*) Only one menial accompanied the Superintendent.

(*e*) Rs. 19-0-6 as travelling allowance and twelve annas as halting charges.

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Khulna settlement staff.

448. **Maulvi RAFI UDDIN AHMED:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state—

(i) whether it is a fact that in the Khulna settlement new men are going to be appointed instead of those who have served in previous settlements;

(ii) how many of the officers of the Khulna settlement are old hands and how many new ones;

(*iii*) whether it is a fact that the Khulna settlement is a counterpart of the Jessore settlement; and

(*iv*) if so, have the Government considered the claims of the Jessore staff?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [LAND REVENUE] (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): (*i*) No. If competent men with previous settlement experience are available they are preferred to those without such experience.

(*ii*) All officers in the Khulna settlement are old hands with the exception of a few recruited for purely temporary work, such as copying, and for work during recess.

(*iii*) and (*iv*) It is not quite clear what is meant by the suggestion that the Khulna settelment is a counterpart of the Jessore settlement. The settlements are entirely distinct, but cadastral operations in Khulna did not start till they were completed in Jessore. The majority of the ministerial staff at headquarters and in the attestation camps were recruited from the Jessore staff and all but two of the remainder from other settlements.

Formation of union boards in Pabna.

449. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) why no steps have yet been taken to form union boards in the district of Pabna; and

(*ii*) when is the constitution of such boards likely to be taken up?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): (*i*) and (*ii*) The member is referred to the answer given to a similar question asked by him at this meeting. The Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division reports that owing to the non-co-operation movement and the prevalence of the idea that union boards mean more taxation, progress in their constitution has received a set-back.

Union committees and union boards in Pabna.

450. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the district of Pabna—

(*i*) the names of union committees; and

(*ii*) union boards with respective dates of their establishment?

(*b*) Is it in the contemplation of the Government to replace the union committees by union boards?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister be pleased to state whether any union boards are to be established in the said district either during the year 1922-23 or during the year 1923-24?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) (*i*) The member is referred to Appendix E of the Resolution on the Working of District Boards in Bengal for 1920-21.

(*ii*) No union boards have yet been established in Pabna.

(*b*) The attention of the member is invited to Mr. O'Malley's circular No. 2501—05-L.S.-G., dated the 2nd September, 1920, a copy of which was published at page 175 of the Council Proceedings for 1921, Volume V.

(*c*) No such proposals are pending before Government at present and it will depend on the wishes of the people whether union boards are or are not established in the Pabna district in 1923-24.

Collection and expenditure of roads and public works cesses in Pabna.

451. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state for the last five years—

(*i*) the amount collected annually as roads and public works cesses in the district of Pabna;

(*ii*) the collection charges; and

(*iii*) the amounts spent annually on roads and tanks in the district?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*i*) and (*ii*) A statement is laid on the Library table.

(*iii*) The member is referred to the figures under the head "45.—Civil Works—Communications" in Statement III appended to the Resolutions on the Working of District Boards for the years 1917-18 to 1921-22. The expenditure on tanks was:—

			Rs.
1917-18	...	...	2,970
1918-19	...	...	738
1919-20	...	...	1,996
1920-21	...	...	2,857
1921-22	...	...	448

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 451, showing the road and public works cess receipts in the district of Pabna and the charges incurred for their collection.

		Road Cess.	Public Works Cess	Collection Charges
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1917-18	...	77,002	79,316	1,149
1918-19	...	78,443	82,883	1,190
1919-20	..	81,535	86,611	1,168
1920-21	.	80,435	83,478	4,546
1921-22	..	74,099	80,054	2,698

NOTE.—The above figures have been taken from the Accountant General's books.

Contribution for lighting arrangements in commercial quarters of Calcutta.

452. Babu NALINI NATH ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government is paying Rs. 5,000 yearly to the Corporation of Calcutta for the lighting of the commercial area?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Government of India discontinued such grants which were previously contributed by them?

(*c*) Is there any difficulty in the discontinuance of such grant by the local Government?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) In 1902 the Government of India commented on the unsatisfactory condition of the roads and footpaths, and the deficient arrangements for conservancy and lighting in the commercial and official quarters of Calcutta comprised within the block bounded on the north by Writers' Buildings and Fairlie Place down to the river Hooghly; on the west by the river; on the east by Old Court House Street as far as Esplanade Row East; and on the south by Esplanade Row. While pointing out that the Municipal Corporation had certain responsibilities in the matter, the Government of India stated that they were prepared to assist the Corporation with a subvention from Imperial revenues on the understanding that the roadways and footpaths in the area were placed and maintained in a thoroughly satisfactory condition, and that proper arrangements were made for conservancy and lighting. The estimate of cost, initial and recurring, for

effecting the improvements was reported by the Corporation to be as follows:—

		Initial.	Recurring.
		Rs.	Rs.
Paving the side walks	...	98,000	...
Additional gas lamps	...	15,000	16,000
Additional conservancy arrangements	...	5,000	10,000
Kerbing and channelling the streets	...	18,000	...
		1,36,000	26,000

The Government of India and the local Government agreed to bear the initial charges between them, and decided to make an annual contribution of Rs. 5,000 each towards meeting a part of the recurring charges.

(*b*) and (*c*) In view of the removal of the capital to Delhi, the Government of India decided in 1921 to discontinue their annual contribution. The local Government have no such justification for stopping their subsidy. When they undertook to pay this subsidy the local Government did not limit their payment to a term of years and although the rateable value of the area has since increased, and this fact might form some jusification for reconsidering the whole question, the Minister is of opinion that the Corporation would in common fairness be entitled to a notice of a considerable period, if Government were to decide that the subvention should cease.

Government Bills.

The Calcutta Port (Amendment) Bill, 1922.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. J. Donald): I beg leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Calcutta Port Act, 1880.

The objects of this Bill are set out in the Statement of Objects and Reasons and I need not say much about them. There are four main objects. The first is to give the Port Commissioners power to set aside any sum of money out of their revenue surplus as reserve funds. These funds do exist, but it is necessary to make provision to give them a statutory basis and to put them on a proper footing. The second object is to empower the Port Commissioners to reserve and set apart any debentures or securities to be issued by them on account of any loan. The third is the most important object in this Bill—that which enables the Commissioners to establish a provident fund in substitution of the

existing pensionary system. The fourth object is to give the Commissioners power to incur expenditure in certain circumstances over and above that covered by the sanctioned estimate. The Bill has already been published and I beg to introduce it now in Council.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: I move that the Calcutta Port (Amendment) Bill, 1922, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. A. Marr, Mr. G. N. Roy, Mr. S. C. Stuart-Williams, Mr. S. R. Das, Rai Fanindralal De Bahadur, Mr. Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, Mr. W. L. Carey, Raja Reshee Case Law, and the mover, with instructions to submit their report in time for its consideration at the July session, 1923.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Bengal Aerial Ropeways Bill, 1923.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): I move that permission be given to refer the Bengal Aerial Ropeways Bill, 1923, to a Select Committee for scrutiny and report to this Council.

Earlier in the session I obtained leave from the Council to introduce this Bill, which is a short Bill to provide facilities for constructing both public and private aerial ropeways in the province of Bengal. I explained that the Bill as originally drafted had also been referred to a Select Committee, who made certain recommendations and suggested that the Bill as drafted was unsuitable and required further revision to provide for private enterprise. The Bill has been re-drafted in accordance with the recommendations of that Committee. It now requires further scrutiny by a Select Committee before it is submitted to the Council to be passed into law. I have previously explained the objects and reasons of the Bill and I will not trouble the Council with further particulars until the Bill is submitted to them in its final form. I move for leave to refer this Bill to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. G. G. Dey, Mr. T. Emerson, Mr. W. L. Carey, Sir Asutosh Chaudhuri, Mr. Syed Nasim Ali, Mr. H. E. Skinner, Mr. T. C. Crawford, and the mover, with instructions to submit their report in time for its consideration at the July session, 1923.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Indian Salt (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1923.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: I understand that amendments will be moved in connection with this Bill which will require consideration. As

there is no very great hurry for this measure, I beg leave to postpone this motion.

The motions that the Bill be taken into consideration and that the Bill be passed were postponed.

The Budget for the year 1923-24.

Demands for Grants.

27.—PORTS AND PILOTAGE.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: I move that a sum of Rs. 1,41,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "27.—Ports and Pilotage."

The bulk of this expenditure is on the port of Chittagong and this is the amount necessary for its working.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the total demand of Rs. 13,600 under the head "27B.—Chittagong Port Officer's Department" be reduced by Rs. 500.

This is an example of how Government money is extravagantly squandered. It is well known to many members of the Council that the port of Chittagong, as well as the management of the port, is in the hands of a body of people known as the Port Commissioners. The Government of Bengal has nothing to do with that body, but the Government has got an officer there called the Port Officer. Now, Sir, the duties of that officer are not adequate enough to occupy the whole of his time; therefore, he has been appointed Secretary to the Port Commissioners, for which he gets certain allowances and privileges. It would strike an ordinary man that the Secretary to the Port Commissioners should naturally be allowed to use all the vessels belonging to them. The Port Commissioners have a large number of steam-launches; altogether six, I think. Now, Sir, there are only five officers of the Port Commissioners who use these six launches. So even if they use one launch each there remains one to spare, and the spare one might be used by the Port Officer; but no, the Government of Bengal have decided otherwise. They have provided a motor-launch and Rs. 30,000 is provided in the revised estimates this year for this launch. I submit to the Council that this is extravagant. The Port Officer should be allowed to use the Port Commissioners' launches, and I suggest that Government should dispose of the new motor-launch and do away with the recurring expenditure.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: This motion comes a few months too late. The purchase of this launch was sanctioned in this Council in August last without opposition, and it was then stated by Sir John Kerr that the Port Officer could not do his work without a launch. It is impossible for the Port Officer to borrow a launch time after time from the Port

Commissioners; it is not right that Government officers doing Government duty should have to go to the Port Commissioners to borrow launches for their work. This is why we have provided the money. I must oppose this motion; a similar motion was rejected by the Council in August last.

The motion was put and lost.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 5,000 under the head "27.—Ports and Pilotage—Subsidies to Steam-Boat Companies" be refused.

I am glad to be informed that some boat companies are in receipt of Government subsidies, but I have not yet been able to obtain their names. In any case, if there are such companies they should help us in training our Indian boys in the steam-boat line. In answer to my questions and in reply to a resolution of mine on the subject of help being given to our boys by admitting them as apprentices, I had been repeatedly informed by the Hon'ble Member in charge that steamer companies declined to have anything to do with our boys. I therefore consider that it is high time that the Council should refuse to give subsidies to companies which have declined to have anything to do with our Indian boys in the matter of admitting them as apprentices in their offices.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: I am afraid the Rai Bahadur does not know the difference between steam-boat companies and steam-ship companies. This particular item is for payment by Government to the river steam navigation companies for the pilots they supply to Government for the pilotage of Government launches. We must have a pilot for these rivers as everybody knows, and we must pay for them. I oppose the motion.

The motion was put and lost.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 50,000 under the head '27C.—Miscellaneous—Other Charges' be reduced to Rs. 5,000."

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 7,960 for travelling allowances under the head '27.—Ports and Pilotage' be reduced by Rs. 1,990."

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 1,41,000 under the head '27.—Ports and Pilotage' be reduced by Rs. 24,000."

The original demand under the head "27.—Ports and Pilotage" was then put and agreed to.

30.—SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENTS.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I move that a sum of Rs. 30,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "30.—Scientific Departments."

Members will find that the list of amounts under this head are set out on page 46 of the Grey Book. This is an old grant and nothing new has been added this year. I hope the Council will pass it.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 6,000 under the head "30A.—Donation to Scientific Societies—To other Societies" be reduced by Rs. 1,200.

The reduction which I propose is under the head of "Donation to Scientific Societies" and relates to matters which have been taken charge of by the Imperial Government—I mean the charges for the Archæological Department which is managed and maintained by the Government of India. Perhaps it may be known to some members of the Council that the Government of India have a Superintendent of Archæology, with his headquarters in Calcutta, for Bengal and Assam. It is also the duty of that officer to look after the archæological works of the province. Mr. Dikshit, the Superintendent of Archæology in Bengal, is a sympathetic officer and an able officer too; and I find that he has already obtained for this particular society a grant of Rs. 2,000 for excavating Paharpur from the imperial fund. I believe it is not proper to utilize provincial funds on matters which are definitely reserved by the Government of India in their own hands and under their own direct management. Such charges, Sir, should be met from the imperial revenues, and on principle no money from the provincial funds should be spent on such things. Moreover, we have no machinery to supervise, judge or decide anything in regard to subjects like these. So much about the principle which should exclude the desirability of a grant being voted to the Barendra Research Society for which it is demanded.

Mr. PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. E. A. Cotton): Rai Bahadur, there are only five minutes left. If you want the Hon'ble the Minister to reply to you, you must be very brief.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: Yes, Sir. I shall be very brief. I am glad to find that an enlightened zamindar of Bengal interested in this matter has been participating in the management as well as financial help of this society. Under these circumstances Government must relieve themselves of this charge. Sir, I do not deny the value of the work that has been done. My opposition is on principle only, and since it is an imperial matter it should be entrusted to the Government of India, from whose revenues the charges should be met.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I appreciate that this is a hardy annual of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur. Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt

Bahadur attempted to cut the grant last year and he has returned to the charge this year. His speech shows, however, that he knows very little about this demand. Archæology no doubt, is an imperial subject, but historical research commences where archæology ends. It is the function of archæology to excavate and preserve monuments. It is the province of historical research to work on these archæological finds. This grant is mainly to help historical research. Then again, although archæology is an imperial subject, its administration is provincial. I do not think I need take up the time of the Council over this question. I oppose the motion.

The motion was put and lost.

The original demand under the head "30.—Scientific Departments" was then put and agreed to.

31.—EDUCATION—EUROPEAN EDUCATION.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION [EUROPEAN EDUCATION] (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): I move that a sum of Rs. 10,66,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "31.—Education—European Education."

The reserved portion of the educational budget includes charges in connection with the education of the children of Europeans and Anglo-Indians in Bengal, and of the children of Indians in the two reserved districts of the Chittagong Hill Tracts and Darjeeling. The grant for the education of non-Europeans in the reserved area is non-voted and as such is not subject to the vote of the Council, while the grant for the education of Europeans and Anglo-Indians is voted. The sum of Rs. 10,66,000 which is under discussion is intended only for the education of Europeans and Anglo-Indians. During the current year a grant of Rs. 9,46,000 was originally voted by the Council for this branch of education; this provision fell short of actual commitments and a further recurring grant of Rs. 1,34,000 was voted by the Council in the supplementary budget to meet the difficulty. The total grant available for expenditure during 1922-23, therefore, was Rs. 10,80,000. As a result of the 5 per cent. reduction in expenditure as a measure of economy on which Mr. Donald insisted and Mr. Marr followed with greater vehemence, the annual grant has been reduced by Rs. 30,000, and the net grant left for expenditure during the current year is Rs. 10½ lakhs, and an increase of Rs. 16,000 over this grant of Rs. 10½ lakhs is asked for next year to provide for annual increments in the pay of officers, and to provide for the pay of officers below the Bengal Education Service, and of the increased rates recently sanctioned. Otherwise, the budget is a repetition budget and only allows for expenditure to carry on the existing activities of the department in regard to European education.

The detailed estimates under this head are given on page 48 of the budget and pages 107 to 114 of the civil budget estimates now in the hands of the members.

Under "Secondary" is exhibited expenditure incurred on account of the two Government schools at Kurseong; the pay of the staff employed has been revised during the current year. The lump grant in the budget has been distributed under various detailed heads. Under this head is also included the grant given to non-Government secondary institutions in accordance with the rules laid down in the Code of Regulations in connection with European schools. Under "Primary" are shown grants given to non-Government primary schools in accordance with the rules laid down in the Code. Under establishment and maintenance charges of Government training classes attached to the Dow Hill Girls' School at Kurseong is included the grant to the School for Defective Children at Kurseong, the cost of the establishment of the Indian Educational Service, travelling allowances, contingencies, and scholarships paid to European and Anglo-Indian children and the cost of examination of European schools.

The following motions were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 35,676 under the head '31A.—Education—European Education—Government Secondary Schools—Technical Staff' be reduced to Rs. 9,000."

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 35,676 on account of technical staff under the head '31A.—Education—Reserved—Government Secondary Schools' be reduced to the extent of the pay of seven extra officers."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 3,00,000 under the head '31A.—Education—Reserved—Government Secondary Schools' be reduced by Rs. 10,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 3,99,000 under the head '31B.—Education—Reserved—For European and Anglo-Indian Education—Direct Grants to non-Government Primary Schools' be reduced by Rs. 10,000."

The following motions standing in the name of Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray were, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 27,000 under the head '31C.—Training Schools—Reserved' be refused."

"That the demand for Rs. 14,000 under the head '31D.—Inspection—Reserved' be refused."

The following motions were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 28,000 under the head '31D.—Education—Reserved—Scholarships in Secondary Schools' be reduced by Rs. 4,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 4,000 under the head '31D.—Education—Reserved—Scholarships in Special Schools other than Training Schools' be reduced by Rs. 2,000."

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 3,000 for travelling allowances under the head '31.—Education—Reserved' be reduced by Rs. 750."

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand for Rs. 10,66,000 under the head "31.—Education—Reserved" be reduced, not by Rs. 100, which is a mistake, but by Re. 1 only.

I am always modest in my proposals. The budgeted expenditure for the education of Europeans and Anglo-Indians is a little more than 10½ lakhs of rupees out of a total expenditure of about one crore and a quarter under the head of "Education." The cost of educating a European or Anglo-Indian works out at slightly less than 10 per cent. of the cost of educating the rest of the people of Bengal. Now, Sir, what is the proportion which these communities bear to the non-European and non-Anglo-Indian population of this province? Roughly speaking, the number of Europeans and Anglo-Indians in Bengal is 45,000; the ratio is thus 1 to 1,000. If we take the expenditure per head, we find that a European or Anglo-Indian boy costs the State, roughly speaking, one hundred times as much as an Indian boy. Sir, I refer to these figures not because I intend to create any racial feeling, but because I want that the true state of things should be realized by all. I desire as ardently as anybody else that there should be goodwill among all races inhabiting India. But this goodwill to be real, must be based on fair dealing, equity, and the recognition of the just claims of all communities. I wish that the Europeans and Anglo-Indians should receive the right sort of education. Education helps to broaden the mind; and when these communities are properly educated, I hope they will perceive more clearly than they do now the debt of gratitude they owe to the country which does so much for them, and better relations would be established between them and the children of the soil.

Mr. F. E. E. VILLIERS: I welcome this opportunity of dealing with the question of European education, but in doing so I do not propose to touch specifically on any individual points concerned with expenditure, since I feel convinced that this will be dealt with very much more adequately by the Hon'ble Member in charge. At the same

time, inasmuch as the motion now before the House for this nominal reduction would, if passed, indicate a lack of confidence in the educational institutions which are doing such splendid work out here, I do wish to put certain considerations before the House and ask them to view these considerations in their proper aspect, before rejecting the motion in question, as I feel sure they will.

What are these grants that are made by Government? They constitute, so it seems to me, the minimum amount of encouragement which the Government give to the European schools and institutions and which enables them to carry on the work of educating their own community; and it is on this very slender foundation that many many lakhs of rupees are raised annually from a generous public to carry on their educational work. Indeed, I believe I am right in saying, that well over a quarter of a crore of rupees has been raised by one such institution alone, viz., the Kalimpong Homes, during the past few years and many more lakhs have been raised for other institutions by hard-working and single-minded enthusiasts. But it constitutes more than this. It constitutes as it were—and this is a point which I particularly want to emphasize—the seal of the approval of the Council and of the Government to the work that is being done, and it is because the Council and the Government in the past had given their support to these institutions, that it has been possible to raise money from the public. Sir, what is going to be the result if public confidence is weakened in regard to these institutions by any lack of confidence being shown by this Council? It is this: that the work that is being done now and which depends in a very large measure on the public support, is bound to be thrown on the shoulders of the taxpayers, since, it is admitted that we cannot have a vagrant European community growing up in this country. The taunt has been thrown at the European that he comes to this country in order to shake a few gold mohurs from the Pagoda Tree prior to returning to his own country, and there is undoubtedly a certain amount of justification in this gibe.

But, Sir, how can it be expected that this state of affairs will improve if adequate encouragement is not given to European education? It is true that Europeans of our class do not as a rule educate their children at these institutions, but the Council has got to realize this cardinal fact, that the real Government of the province is not constituted in this Council but in the great body of the electorate—and if this holds good to-day it will be even more so in future—an electorate composed of both Europeans and Indians, and as such it is surely imperative, if the Reforms are to be a success, that the Europeans who are educated in this country should be educated in such a manner as to fit them to play their part in the country.

I think, Sir, that there must be very few in this Council who can gainsay the fact that for many years to come the European will be, to say the least of it, as necessary to the country as the Indian, and I

think even my most pan-Indian friends, men such as my hon'ble friend, the Kumar Sahib, or Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, will hardly disagree with this contention. Surely if that is so, the very measure of the country's need for the European is the measure of our community's need for adequate education being ensured to the Europeans and Anglo-Indians in this country. I think, Sir, that everyone in this Council knows the meaning of the words "Bidiya Dan"—the gift of learning—the greatest gift which any one individual or communities can confer on another. I ask the Council not to curtail this gift of "Bidiya Dan" but to show with a unanimous voice their confidence in the educational work, now being carried on by giving an unqualified "No" to this demand for reduction.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I have on two previous occasions supported the grant to European schools. I do not desire to say a word of disparagement against our fellow-citizens—Anglo-Indians, though it is a fact that the money spent on their education is a hundred times more than what is spent on Indian boys. But their style and mode of living is quite different and higher than ours, and so I do not desire to quarrel with them. One thing I must mention here, and that is this: it is for the serious consideration of their community that their boys cannot pass the degree examinations. They get education upon a lower scale than Indian boys. I do not understand the reason why their system should not be affiliated to our system and why Anglo-Indian boys should be less educated than Indian boys. In all schools instruction is being imparted in English, and I fail to understand why they should not be able to pass the Matriculation, the Intermediate, and the B.A. examinations.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: Whilst I am grateful to my hon'ble friend, the learned Minto Professor, I am very sorry that he took certain lines in his speech, which, coming from a scholar like himself and a man who has travelled abroad, came as rather a painful surprise to me. In the first place, one would never have expected Dr. Banerjea trying to put into a discussion of this nature, the population question. European education cannot be judged from the basis of population. It has got to be argued from the basis of helping a community which tries to do its best for itself. It has got to be discussed from the point of view which to a certain degree my hon'ble friend, Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur, touched, viz., not only the cost of living but the mode of living and the education that an average European or Anglo-Indian boy receives make it necessary for that education to be more expensive than the education the Indian boy receives in this country. If we apply these two tests, I think it would be admitted by all that the demand which I have made on behalf of Government for European education is indeed a moderate one and from that

point of view, whether the cut be a lakh of rupees or only one rupee, Government cannot accept the principle, viz., that we are spending too much for the education of European boys.

Before I conclude, Sir, I would like to point out to my hon'ble friend, Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur, that it is the first time that I have been told that the school education of Europeans, at any rate the Senior Cambridge, is lower than the education given in Indian schools. If I remember rightly, we have some members in this Council to-day whose fathers had sent them to St. Xavier's because they thought that the education there was really better and higher than the education they would have received in the Indian schools. But I am sure there are other persons of greater authority than myself who can speak on the subject. I believe that there is a feeling among certain sections of the European and Anglo-Indian community as to whether or not in certain schools at any rate it would really pay them better in the long run to fall into line with the curriculum now prevailing in the country, but this is a matter for them to bring before the educational authorities and not for me to dilate on at the present moment.

For the reasons I have explained, I oppose the motion put forward by Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following motion standing in the names of Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri and Babu Rishindra Nath Sarkar was, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 10,66,000 under the head '31.—Education — European Education' be reduced by Re. 1."

The original demand under the head "31.—Education—European Education" was then put and agreed to.

31.—EDUCATION (EXCLUDING EUROPEAN EDUCATION).

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I move that a sum of Rs. 1,07,79,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "31.—Education (excluding European Education)."

Many points relating to this grant have been discussed at great length during the general budget discussion by those of my friends who criticized my administration and those who made definite suggestions. I have dealt with these criticisms at length in my reply on that occasion. I, therefore, do not think that any lengthy remarks are necessary from me to-day.

I find that there are a number of motions for reduction or refusal of grants and I desire to say a few words with regard to some of them. The Council is aware of the Government decision regarding the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, and the Council by their votes have

already declared their acceptance of the Government decision in this matter. I will, therefore, first of all refer to those amendments which come within this decision. Amendments 675—684 relating to the grant to the Dacca University, 685 and 686 relating to Government arts colleges, 687—689 relating to training colleges, 691—694 relating to Government secondary schools, 698 relating to training schools, 699—707 relating to guru-training schools, 716—721 relating to general direction, 722—731 relating to inspection, and 737 relating to travelling allowances, come within the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee. All these questions are at the present moment under the consideration of Government. It is, therefore, not possible for me to anticipate the Government decisions on these motions. If, however, any hon'ble member desires to make any definite suggestion with regard to any one of these motions, we shall be very pleased to take such suggestions into our consideration for the purpose of arriving at our decision, which we propose to announce before this House in July next.

I find there are two motions for reduction of grant to the Calcutta University by Re. 1 only. I suppose the object of the movers is to raise a general discussion with special reference perhaps to the result of our negotiations with the Calcutta University over the grant of Rs. 2½ lakhs. Some members, other than the movers, have also expressed to me their dissatisfaction, as they were under the erroneous impression that I made over the grant of Rs. 2½ lakhs without making proper and adequate arrangements for improving the financial administration of the Calcutta University. I am glad, however, to inform the House that the question has been satisfactorily settled. The Calcutta University have given us an assurance that they were ready to remodel the University accounts, generally on the lines suggested by the Accountant-General, in so far as this can be done within the funds that are or may be at their disposal. They have also agreed to give every facility to the Accountant-General and his officers who may be specially deputed for this purpose to attain this end. As regards the proviso of the Calcutta University that they were willing to remodel the University accounts so far as they could do so within the funds at their disposal, I would quote a portion of Mr. Hornell's letter dated the 9th February, 1923, and written under my instructions, which is relevant to this point:—

The Accountant-General is of opinion that the preparation of an Office Manual and the reorganization of the Accounts Department will not involve any substantial increase in expenditure. That, however, is a matter which Mr. Mitter is prepared to leave to be settled by you and the Accountant-General. If, however, you and the Accountant-General agree that reorganization of the Accounts Department or the preparation of an Office Manual will involve any additional expenditure, it must be understood that such expenditure will have to be met from the grant of Rs. 3 lakhs, as it is not possible under the Budget Rules as also because of financial stringency to provide for any additional sum for this purpose.

I may remind the House that our conditions were generally based on the recommendations of the Accountant-General and that after our much criticized letter of the 23rd August, 1922, was issued, the Senate of the Calcutta University on the 16th of September of the same year adopted rules for budget estimates, etc., and that after the issue of our said letter of the 23rd August, 1922, it took certain other steps which, according to the Calcutta University, rendered the imposition of some of the conditions of our letter of that date superfluous. I would leave it to the members of this House to judge whether or not our much criticized letter of the 23rd August, 1922, did not result in improving the financial administration of the Calcutta University. However, our object is to improve matters and not to prolong the controversy. We are satisfied that since the 23rd August, 1922, whether as a result of our much criticized letter or for other reasons, matters have improved considerably, and the fact that the University is now ready to remodel the University accounts on the lines of the suggestions of the Accountant-General, will, I trust, result in lasting improvement to the financial administration of the University. I have this satisfaction, therefore, that though I have been unjustly abused and criticized, I have succeeded in achieving my object, namely, the improvement of the financial administration of the Calcutta University. The important fact remains that this improvement was subsequent to the 23rd of August, 1922.

As regards grants to the Dacca and the Calcutta Universities, I desire to make it perfectly clear that Government reserves to itself full right to deal with these grants in the most suitable way. I would not have referred to this point but for certain arguments which were raised that the grant of Rs. 2½ lakhs voted by this Council in July last was not fettered by any conditions. I explained my views on the matter on that occasion and I shall not repeat them here. As regards the grants to these two Universities, I would refer the House to what I stated in my speech when dealing with the general criticisms on the budget. I also desire to remind the House that in my last speech I stated that we intended to send one superior officer from the Education Department and an expert from the Finance Department to examine the accounts of the Dacca University. I am glad to tell the House that we have been able to arrange to send these two officers early. They will be able to start within the course of the next few days. I also stated that if either Mr. Surendra Nath Mallik or Rai Abinash Chandra Banerjee Bahadur, who were members of the Retrenchment Committee, would give the necessary time, I was willing to arrange for a conference with the authorities of the Dacca University for the purpose of scrutinizing the budget of that University, and I repeat this offer again. I trust the Council will pass the grants of the Calcutta and Dacca Universities without any objection and at any rate without any acrimonious debate. I may also remind the House that His Excellency the Governor in his Dacca speech and in his

address to this House announced that it was intended to appoint a committee to deal with the matter. This committee will, I hope, be able to advise Government about the respective activities of the two Universities. This, I hope, will satisfy some members of this House who seem to think that there is unnecessary duplication in the activities of the two Universities.

There is one point which the hon'ble members should not overlook. Any cuts in the budget demands to-day will mean that the amount cut will go to the general coffers of the Government, and if this results in a surplus, every department whether on the Reserved or on the Transferred side, will be entitled to claim a portion of it. On the other hand, if the Council pass the grant as moved by me, and if I find it possible to make any saving, I will have a much better chance of utilizing that saving for the expansion of the educational activities of this province, which I have no doubt this Council desire.

The following motion standing in the names of Babu Rishindra Nath Sarkar and Babu Satish Chandra Mukharji was, by leave of the Council, deemed to be withdrawn:-

"That the demand under the head '31E.-Grants to Universities - Dacca University Recurring' be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000."

The following motions were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:-

Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA, Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY, and Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand of Rs. 4,00,000 for non-recurring grant to the Dacca University under the head '31E.' be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000."

Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI: "That the demand of Rs. 9,00,000 under the head '31E.- Education—Transferred - Grant to Dacca University' be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000."

Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT: I move that the demand of Rs. 9,00,000 for the Dacca University under the head "31E.—Education" be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000.

I wish to make it perfectly clear, Sir, at the very outset, that I am not an enemy of the Dacca University. I have been connected with education for the last ten years, and I think the policy of Government ought to be to establish as many centres of education in Bengal as possible. The establishment of the Dacca University has been a boon to Eastern Bengal. I have, however, received information to the effect that the expenses of that University are extremely heavy and it is run on extravagant lines. Now, I do not know whether that statement is correct or not. Perhaps the Hon'ble the Minister will tell us that the Dacca University is being run on the minimum expense possible, but one question I would like to ask of the Hon'ble the Minister, and it is this. If

you give the Calcutta University only Rs. 1,48,000 or less than that—I think it was 1,41,000 in the last budget—and for the Dacca University provide a grant of Rs. 9 lakhs every year, I ask him—is that fair? The two sister universities should be treated alike. Why should one university, simply because it is a new university, be given Rs. 9 lakhs every year and the other university only Rs. 1,40,000? I shall possibly be told that a great portion of this money which is made over to the Dacca University is not really our money but has been paid to us by the Government of India. I understand that about Rs. 70 lakhs was made over by the Government of India to the Government of Bengal for the Dacca University. True. I understand that only the capital expenses are paid out of this sum and that the current expenses are not paid out of this sum at all. It is the taxpayers of Bengal who pay the Rs. 5 lakhs which represents the recurring expenses year after year. I do not know whether this statement is true, but I should like information on this point.

His Excellency the Governor has stated that a committee will be appointed, presumably for the purpose of looking into the accounts or looking into the affairs of the Dacca University, with, I understand, a view to retrenchment, and the Hon'ble the Minister has repeated to us the assurance. In the circumstances, I do not think I am justified in pressing this resolution. But the reason that I have made this speech is for the purpose of getting information, which I hope the Hon'ble the Minister will furnish to us.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the total demand of Rs. 9,00,000 for the Dacca University under the head "31E.—University" be reduced by Rs. 5,000.

I should have been very glad if my friend, Mr. Ajoy Chunder Dutt, had come forward in this Council as an open enemy of the Dacca University rather than in the guise of a friend. If it was his intention to elicit information from the Hon'ble the Minister or to discuss the policy on which this University is being run, he could have followed my example and suggested merely a nominal cut. We, who come from Eastern Bengal, are proud of this University; we want that this University should be there and we want that this should grow up with the best traditions of the residential universities of England. When, therefore, I suggest a cut—a nominal cut—I suggest it only to request the Hon'ble the Minister to see that the management of the University is carried on with the best traditions of the English residential universities and that no extravagance may be permitted. I have made certain inquiries regarding the management of this University, and I find that for want of sufficient funds no research scholarships could be granted during the last two years. On the top of this, I hear that an Indian Educational Service officer, in addition to his own extravagant pay, has been granted an allowance of Rs. 200; what extra duties he will perform I do not know,

but this much is known, that he will get this allowance, even when on leave. Sir, when I remember that there are two Professors of Physics in that University, one of the Indian Educational Service and the other who seems to have just as good educational degrees, if not better, outside the Imperial Service and getting much less pay, I am constrained to admit that the internal management of this university calls for some comment. I hear that for want of funds, the department of education of the University has had to be abolished and the professor has been given notice to quit. I also understand that the Professor of Mathematics will soon leave and there is no proposal to bring forward another professor in his place. In view of these facts, it seems to me that the objection of Mr. Ajoy Chunder Dutt to the recurring grant of Rs. 5 lakhs is absolutely cruel. Sir, Mr Dutt has compared the grant that is given to the Calcutta University with the grant that is given to the Dacca University May I remind him that the Presidency College of Calcutta, one college under the Calcutta University, absorbs nearly as much money as the whole Dacca University does? I hope Mr Dutt will ruminate over this fact. There is an honorary Vice-Chancellor for the Calcutta University, but for the Dacca University we have to pay an extraordinarily large sum, and from the manner in which the University has been managed up till now, it seems that there has been a great deal of waste in unnecessary expenses. I should ardently request the Hon'ble the Minister to see that the University is managed on most economical lines. He may then safely ask this Council for more money in a supplementary grant for the expansion of this University.

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Nirode Behary Mullick was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:-

"That the demand of Rs. 9,00,000 for the Dacca University under the head '31.--Education—Transferred' be reduced by Rs. 5."

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: I move that the demand of Rs. 9,00,000 for grant to Dacca University be reduced by Re. 1.

At the very outset I would like to say that I have no animus against the Dacca University; in fact, I wish this University God-speed. I want it to grow and flourish like a bay tree. It has been said that the Dacca University is an infant and therefore the child must be nourished; otherwise it will die of starvation or anæmia. Quite so, but in order to nourish the child two special precautions need be taken: first, the child must not be overfed, lest it should die of plethora; and secondly, it should not be over-indulged, lest the child gets spoiled and gets into bad habits. The Retrenchment Committee has brought rather a serious charge against this University. That charge is that it is not being run on economic lines—a very serious charge which demands serious notice. The Hon'ble the Minister, as the trusted custodian of public funds, is very very particular about the taxpayers' money. He has said over and over again to this

House that it is his business to see that money is not misspent—money which comes from the poor taxpayer. I understood the Hon'ble the Minister to say in two previous speeches that the Dacca University was entitled to Rs. 63 lakhs—money which was given to it at the time of the readjustment between the Central Government and the Provincial Government. I speak subject to correction; if I am wrong, the Hon'ble the Minister will correct me. Of this Rs. 63 lakhs, this is the third instalment of Rs. 9 lakhs—Rs. 5 lakhs each year for recurring expenditure and Rs. 4 lakhs for non-recurring capital expenditure. The real point that demands consideration is that if this University is allowed to base its recurring expenditure on this lavish scale of Rs. 5 lakhs a year, what will this University do when this Rs. 63 lakhs is exhausted? I understand that a deputation of this University waited upon the Hon'ble the Minister and requested for a recurring grant of Rs. 6¾ lakhs. As it is, it is precipitating headlong into a ruinous and recklessly heavy expenditure. The Hon'ble the Minister turned a deaf ear to them and said that they must manage with Rs. 5 lakhs. But even this Rs. 5 lakhs, looked at from our provincial revenue point of view, is too extravagant. I fully admit that the University must be helped, that it should be given every facility, and that it should be given full and free scope for its legitimate development. But this is the basic principle, which has been enunciated by the Hon'ble the Minister himself—that you must cut your coat according to your cloth. If I understood the Hon'ble the Minister aright, he means that expenditure must be related to the provincial revenue. Having regard to our present provincial revenue, when retrenchment is in the air and when every department is called upon to make every possible reduction, is it right and proper, is it fair for the Dacca University to base its expenditure on such a lavish scale? The taxpayer has a legitimate grievance to make this charge. A cut of Re. 1 raises the question of policy; that is the very object of an amendment like this The Hon'ble the Minister will consider this, but so far as I have been able to gauge the feelings of the country in this matter, their most serious objection to the present policy of the Dacca University is that its main feature is duplication and not co-ordination. His Excellency the Governor in his speech the other afternoon said that he was going to look into the question from that point of view, and that is the point which is being demanded by the public. The public condemns the present policy of the Dacca University on the score of duplication and the taxpayer does not want to pay money for a university which is doing and going to do the same kind of work as has been splendidly and excellently done by a sister university in the province, and this is a policy which needs serious reconsideration. From this point of view I feel justified in asking for a reduction of Re. 1 from the grant of Rs. 9 lakhs made for the Dacca University.

Rai PYARI LAL DOSS Bahadur: I oppose the motion for reduction moved against the Dacca University and at the outset I may, as a member

of the Court of the Dacca University, say with the nearest approximation to truth that the objections urged in this House against the Dacca University grant are guilty of *suppressio veri*, and have been urged more from personal bias than from ignorance.

The Dacca University is a new venture. The University Commission condemned the system of education that obtains in the province of Bengal as being fundamentally defective; they said—I quote their own words—"it does little to train the powers of initiative and to inculcate independence of mind and thought" amongst the students. To get rid of these shortcomings, these defects, the Dacca University has been started, where the tutorial system of education has been introduced, and attempts made to free the University from the bonds of the examination system. This tutorial system encourages a close relationship between professors and students—a relationship of intellectual companionship which, though known in the West, is a new development in India.

Already technological studies, though on a modest scale, have been introduced in the Dacca University, and the University is only waiting for money to develop further on the technical side. The suggestion that it is a mere duplication of the Calcutta University is a charge without any foundation.

I freely admit that the Dacca University is not altogether free from blemishes and defects, and that it has not yet reached the standard of a model university. "Rome was not built in a day," and you must remember, Sir, that the Dacca University has been in existence for a year and a half only; it opened its doors on 1st July, 1921. The University of Calcutta was not built in a day. Lakhs and lakhs of money have been spent upon its gigantic buildings, laboratories and equipment, and long, long years have been taken to bring it into its present condition. Of course, I do not mean its present financial condition, but its present position as the premier university.

A trick of fate has given the Dacca University its buildings, which it otherwise could hardly have hoped to have—I mean, Sir, the amendment of the partition of Bengal. Had not the partition been annulled, and the permanent seat of Government removed from Dacca, the Dacca University could never have those buildings which were meant for the residence of the Governor and the high officials of the Government, and for their offices. The construction of similar buildings for the purpose of the University would have meant a very heavy expenditure running into several lakhs. Sir, before the introduction of the Reforms, there was a grant of Rs. 65 lakhs made over by the Government of India, earmarked for the Dacca University, and when the Reforms were introduced in 1921, this money was mixed up with the general revenues of the province and utilized for the urgent and pressing needs of the Administration. This was a windfall for our Government at that difficult time

of financial stringency. Although the Dacca University cannot legitimately claim this money, I request the members of this House to bear this broad fact in their mind in considering the objections to or cuts in the Dacca University grant.

Now, Sir, as regards the charge of extravagance and expensiveness of the Dacca University. The Executive Council of the Dacca University made a thorough, sifting inquiry into the alleged charges, and they have published their statements for the information of the public. They have embodied all necessary facts and figures in their statements, in support of their conclusions. Sir, a glance at the figures will convince the casual reader that the charges are groundless. The figures show that the cost per student of the Dacca University for teaching staff and establishment is less than that of the Presidency College, it being Rs 532 at Dacca and Rs. 558 at the Presidency College. Further, they show that the scale of pay of professors, readers, and lecturers of the Dacca University is almost equal, on an average, to that of two recently established universities—the Rangoon University and the Lucknow University. The authorities of the Dacca University have made all possible retrenchments—they have reached the bedrock of economy, and I apprehend that any further retrenchment may starve the University out of existence.

Lastly, I can do no better than quote the request of His Excellency the Governor, when His Excellency addressed this House on the 16th March last—I quote His Excellency's words—"Grants in aid of both of them" (the Dacca University and the Calcutta University) "are included among the demands which will be placed before you. Both unfortunately involve points of controversy, but I most earnestly hope that these amounts will be voted without reduction."

Nawabzada K. M. AFZAL, Khan Bahadur: I do very much regret that I have to oppose all the motions relating to the Dacca University. I wonder that the enlightened members of this august assembly, who themselves are so well-educated, could have exhibited such anxiety to cut down the grant of an educational institution of the highest order and which is a typical university calculated to serve as a model to the whole of Inida. It is a pity that our university which is shining, so to speak, like the cynosure of the eastern horizon, has become an eyesore since its inauguration. My friends have lost sight of the fact that Government is bound, morally bound, I should say, to give more capital grant than what has been budgeted for, and also to continue the recurring grants for the upkeep of the University. The Hon'ble the Minister in charge has made it clear in his speech what are the needs and requirements of the University, and the statement issued on behalf of the Executive Council of the Dacca University, copies of which have been distributed among the hon'ble members, will, I am sure, convince my friends how

efficiently the University is being worked and with the greatest possible economy, so I need not go into details and take up the time of the Council. Suffice it to say that the present cost of the Dacca University is even less than that of the Presidency College, although the number of students at the University is 156 more than that of the Presidency College (*vide* page 10 of the statement.) After the announcement which His Excellency Lord Lytton was pleased to make at the beginning of this session of the Council and the keen interest which His Excellency takes in the welfare of the University of Dacca, I trust my hon'ble friends will see their way to withdraw their motions.

Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY: I rise to oppose the motions which have just been moved for the reduction of the grant of the Dacca University.

I think I owe an explanation to the House for encroaching upon its time to deal with motions which are foredoomed to be defeated or withdrawn. My justification for doing this is that as a member of the Court of the Dacca University, it is my duty to lay before the House certain facts, which ought to dispel misapprehensions which might exist in certain quarters.

It is very unfortunate, indeed, that Bengal in spite of her best endeavours, has not been able to extricate herself from the iron grip of the "Meston Award," which has upset her financial equilibrium. If the popular indignation which it has roused or the superior judgment of the Central Government had swept it away, as we had very well expected, these periodical attacks on universities and motions to cripple their resources, would have been few and far between. But, my submission is, that however gloomy our financial outlook may be, each and every one of us of this Council should never forget that the cause of education is the noblest cause in the life of a nation.

It is extremely regrettable that some members of this Council are not favourably disposed towards the Dacca University. It is painful to find them seizing with both hands any opportunity which may present itself to check the useful activities of an institution, of which, to quote the words of His Excellency the Governor, "the people should be most proud." We, people of East Bengal at any rate, are proud of it, although it is a university for the whole of India.

Professor Mukherji has indulged in grand-fatherly talk and has characterized the Dacca University as an over-fed infant doomed to death. We are neither alarmed nor frightened by him. He first tickled the baby, but the baby did not laugh; he next pinched the baby, but the baby did not cry; he lastly frightened the baby, but the baby will not get frightened! Such a baby, Sir, deserves to live. (Hear, hear and laughter.)

Mr. Ajoy Chunder Dutt, on the other hand, tried to stab from behind. He levelled his attack under a covert guise—in the garb of a friend; but,

let me tell him that such friends only make us pant, crying out, "Oh God, save us from our friends." (Laughter.)

It is alleged that the Dacca University is extravagant. I shall try to show that the allegation is totally unfounded.

In the first place let me assure the House that the authorities of the Dacca University have tried their level best to cut down the expenditure of the University as much as possible. Two committees of the Court were formed last year to discuss possible reductions in the expenditure of the University. One of these committees, which showed little or no sympathy with the staff, could not cut down more than sixty to seventy thousand rupees from the budget of the University in which a recurring expenditure of Rs. 6,75,000 was provided.

The Hon'ble Mr. Mitter, has, as will be seen from his budget which is lying before us, granted the Dacca University only Rs. 5,00,000 for recurring expenditure. This is, Sir, I am bound to say in the interest of truth, a cruel cut, more so, as the blow is being dealt at almost a moment's notice, although the budget of the University was submitted to the Hon'ble the Minister some time in October last. Is it fair, I ask in all seriousness, if our critics reduce quite another lakh above and over Rs. 1,75,000, which has been peremptorily refused by the Government, in spite of the fact that the Reorganization Committee of the University had already made a drastic reduction? Sir, I once again emphatically repudiate the suggestion that the Dacca University is extravagant, and I must ask the House to believe without any hesitation that it will be impossible to carry on the work if the grant is reduced below Rs. 5,00,000.

In the interests of higher education in East Bengal, I feel it to be my duty strongly to oppose all the motions. I have laid bare some important facts concerning the Dacca University, which, I trust, will enable the House to estimate the real value of these motions. All that I now desire to add is, that the Dacca University very badly needs the whole of the capital grant of Rs. 4,00,000 for extending laboratories and for starting technological workshops, and also to build up a reserve, without which smooth sailing will not only be impossible for the University, but it will actually be driven ashore and stranded. I have already pointed out to the House that the University has already set its helm on the right course—I mean, the path of economy—and I am sure it is not the intention of this House to wreck a noble institution for a paltry saving.

[At this stage the Hon'ble the President left the Chamber and Mr. Deputy-President took the Chair.]

Khan Bahadur KHWAJA MOHAMED AZAM: As a representative of my constituency, as a man of Eastern Bengal, and also as a member of the Executive Council of the University of Dacca, I consider it my

bounden duty strongly to oppose all the amendments for the reduction of the grant to the infant University of Dacca. It is needless to remind this House of the origin of the University, for that fact is known to every one present. But apart from the question of its origin, although the Mussalmans of Eastern Bengal have been disappointed in their expectations, anyone acquainted with the working of the University must admit at least this fact, that the residential character of the University has instilled a new life among its students. It is desirable, therefore, to support the University and give it every farthing the Government can spare for the higher education of the people of Eastern Bengal. The University is not yet fully equipped and many things have yet to be done. The Mussalman students have not yet been provided with a suitable Hall, the University has not yet been able to make provision for a whole-time professor of the department of Islamic studies. The Mussalmans also have many a grievance yet to grumble for. But in spite of all these, I cannot but support this grant. Dacca is proud of its great asset, the University, for what it has already achieved, and we expect it will achieve greater fame in the near future of which Bengal may be proud. I should exhort every member of this House who has any sympathy with the people of Eastern Bengal, and who desires that the future hopes of Eastern Bengal should receive proper training and education to preserve themselves for their future struggle in life, to lend the University every possible support and try his level best to improve the infant University at Dacca and make it a famous centre of learning and education of which Bengal may legitimately feel proud.

There is no good maintaining an ill-equipped and a half-fed University. If we are not in a position to furnish sufficient funds for the upkeep of an up-to-date University, we must do away with it altogether instead of keeping it in a dying condition with a number of discontented professors and lecturers. But, Sir, I hope it is not the desire of any member of this House to kill this promising University within a few years of its birth. We should try to keep it alive and give it the best possible nourishment we can, so that we may, in return, obtain the best possible outturn in the shape of its students.

Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY: In rising to oppose this proposal, I am sorry I have to admit that some of our friends in Western Bengal have never been kindly disposed towards the Dacca University. It is the only institution of its kind in Bengal. It not only relieves congestion in the Calcutta University, but also provides the only residential University in the Presidency.

The dangers of sending young men from the mufassal to Calcutta to live in " messes "—this evil *dernier ressort* of the city—were detailed by Lord Lansdowne at a meeting of the Calcutta University. Those

dangers have multiplied. And it is a matter for congratulation that a dential university has been established at Dacca. It is still in its experimental stage and it shall be our earnest endeavour to provide it with necessary funds to enable it to grow on healthy lines. It was, Sir, only the other day that His Excellency the Governor explained the utility of the institution and the useful work it was doing.

The authorities of the Dacca University are not oblivious of the fact that necessary retrenchment must be made. They are doing it. But we must not force them to effect retrenchments which will mar its usefulness and limit its activities.

Some of my friends may be under the impression that the savings on the Dacca University will go to replenish the coffers of the Calcutta University. I see no hope of that.

I am myself averse to starve universities. The Calcutta University has got many champions in the Council and my friend, Dr. Banerjea, is an acquisition to them. But the Dacca University has not many advocates here. I appeal to my friends, appeal to them in the name of East Bengal, to reject this proposal.

Mr. F. E. E. VILLIERS: I move that the question be now put.

Mr. DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (Babu Surendra Nath Ray): This is a very important question and there are several speakers yet.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: I am a little surprised that we are having so much vocal exercise over a matter upon which it appears both friends and foes are practically agreed, viz., that the Dacca University should exist and should also improve. On that point, it appears that opinion is unanimous; yet there is a shrewd suspicion somewhere as if the Western Bengal people are a little too jealous of the new institution.—[A voice: Where?]—I say in the minds of the people who hail from Eastern Bengal. On the other hand, the Eastern Bengal people seem to be a little anxious for maintaining the new institution, and wherever there is a suggestion of a cut, rather an immediate cut, which none of my friends are seriously inclined to press, the fatherly affection of my friend, the Raja Bahadur on this side, seems to smart under the criticism of an experienced professor like Professor S. C. Mukherji. That should not be. One is inclined to ask the question whether the Dacca University is the property of only the Dacca Division and whether the Calcutta University has crystallized into an institution for the interests of Western Bengal. I want to view both the institutions as sister institutions for the purpose of developing the education of the whole of Bengal. Last evening in the lobby one of my esteemed friends was telling me that the Dacca University must be kept up because it was the only institution where higher Islamic theology was taught: that is certainly a good reason for supporting the Dacca University. At the same

time it stands to reason that there should not be any duplication of the work done by the Calcutta University. I do not think that there is any necessity for providing higher education in Dacca for which there is sufficient opening in Calcutta. Both universities are ours. The Dacca University cannot claim to be the thing of the Dacca Division, nor can the Calcutta University really close its doors to anyone coming from Eastern Bengal. So far as I know, the Calcutta University minus the Eastern Bengal element will perhaps be a poor institution not worthy of its name. So, in these circumstances, it is but proper and advisable that all criticisms that come for the purpose of bettering an institution should be welcomed instead of being cried down, and in that sense, if really any particular item here or there or if the general policy of running the Dacca University is pointed out to us to be extravagant and if it is really found to be so, is there any reason to complain? One thing I can mention. Up to now even the Dacca University has not come up to such a standard as to really outshine the Calcutta University. Still we have a very highly paid Vice-Chancellor there who does not teach. Could we not have any other equally able administrative officer on a lower pay? If that was practicable and possible, should there be any complaint or objection on the part of the gentlemen who were supporting the Dacca University? If the management of the University could be done equally well by a gentleman on a lesser pay, I think that those reasonable gentlemen would be the last to object to that sort of arrangement, and to my mind certainly an administrative officer can be had on a lesser pay. Of course I do not mean to suggest that if no such man is forthcoming, the present gentleman on the present pay should not be entertained. That is a different matter. When these things are mentioned there should be no question of smarting under these things. Both the Universities should exist; both the Universities should be maintained and supported by Government from provincial funds; and we should see that the successful candidates of both the Universities be the glory of the whole of Bengal.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I rise to oppose the motion of my friend Mr. Ajoy Chunder Dutt. Education, specially higher education, is an expensive business, and any curtailment of the proposed grant to the Dacca University will place it in an extremely difficult position. I wish, and I believe all those present here wish, that a great centre of culture should grow up at Dacca, and that it should become an institution of which Bengal may one day be proud. The activities of this institution have, I think, rightly, come in for a great deal of criticism. My friend, Mr. Indu Bhushan Dutta, has already alluded to some of the abuses which are prevalent at Dacca. I also have heard something of the distinction that is made there between European and Indian professors.

Mr. DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Will you kindly cut short your speech? There are several speakers.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: Only one minute! I believe that there is also a great deal of waste of money. This should be prevented by all possible means, and the money saved should be utilized for the furtherance of departments of study for which there is no scope in Calcutta.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: When I received this book, which contains the list of motions for the discussion of the budget, and when I went through the book, naturally I tried to find out the amendments which have been moved for cutting down expenses which might in a way, directly or indirectly, help the cause of Muhammadan education, because I had to read it first from the standpoint of a Muhammadan member of the Bengal Legislative Council to find out how these cuts would affect Muhammadan education.

Mr. AJOY CHUNDER DUTT: I rise to a point of order. Is the Muhammadan question at all relevant to this matter?

Mr. DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Mr. Nasim Ali, you can go on.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: It is very significant that none of the Muhammadan members of the Bengal Legislative Council put in any amendment for refusing the grant to the Dacca University. This is relevant for meeting the point which has been made out by Professor Mukherji. Professor Mukherji said that the feeling of the country was that the money of the Education Department was being spent for nothing. What does he mean by the country? Does he represent the views of the Muhammadans of Eastern Bengal? Does he represent the views of the people of Eastern Bengal? I challenge him there. I refer to this question simply to meet the argument of Professor Mukherji that the feeling of the country is that the Education Department money is being wasted. The very fact that none of the Muhammadan members of the Bengal Legislative Council put in any amendment against the grant to the Dacca University speaks volumes. This fact goes to show that the Muhammadans in a body want that no reduction should be made in this Rs. 5 lakhs which is being given to the Dacca University. That is a fact which speaks volumes. Why is it that Muhammadans did not say a single word about this matter when the amendments came in for cutting this grant?

There is another peculiar thing. I find that some of my Hindu friends are at tug-of-war—I mean the people coming from Eastern Bengal and the gentlemen coming from Western Bengal. But there is a difference in the attitude of our friends from Western Bengal as well as from Eastern Bengal. Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, who comes from Eastern Bengal, suggests that if the money is being wasted, it should be stopped. There is no question of that: that is a fair and proper attitude, but I really could not understand the attitude of Mr. S. M. Bose

who, I understand, is a representative of Mymensingh in Eastern Bengal. As regards facts he does not know them. He only hears statements and does believe in them. I really cannot understand his attitude. He made a statement that the expenses of the University were heavy, and extravagant——

Mr. S. M. BOSE: I deny having ever made a statement.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: I am sorry, I made a mistake It was Mr. Ajoy Chunder Dutt, who moved. He comes from Mymensingh, as far as I know.

Mr. S. M. BOSE: Mr. Ajoy Chunder Dutt does not come from Mymensingh.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: That again strengthens my position. The two gentlemen who have spoken against the grant to the Dacca University come from Western Bengal. That speaks volumes. Dr. Banerjea, who also represents some constituency in Western Bengal, has taken a very reasonable view, viz., that the Dacca University must exist and that it should effect improvements if there be any defects. It is very reasonable. But I really could not understand the attitude of Professor Mukharji, who closed his speech with high eulogies for the Calcutta University, viz., excellent work is being done by the Calcutta University However, I do not want to say anything on that point. Whether the work done by the Calcutta University is excellent or not, the whole country knows and the House is also well aware, but I should like to state one fact which I have been able to gather, namely, that in the Post-graduate Department in Arts only in Calcutta, the Calcutta University spent Rs. 4,29,000 in the year 1921-22 for 1,071 students. If this is excellent work, I have not the least objection in comparing it with the Dacca University. It is very easy to say that the Calcutta University is doing its best. Certainly it must do, because it is a long-standing University. Besides, it has got other things, viz., that it is mainly an examining body, whereas the Dacca University has laid special stress not upon this system but upon the teaching system, and, as we all know, the Calcutta University Commission distinctly stated in their report: "The Government of India desires that Dacca should be a model university of a type new to the Presidency and to India." That is the whole policy, that is the whole principle; it would not be an ordinary examining university like the Calcutta University or an ordinary teaching university like the Calcutta University, but its ideal is much higher. Further, it is also absolutely clear that the Dacca University has as its object the development of Hindu and Muhammadan philosophy. Everybody knows that the Calcutta University Commission distinctly stated: "We hope that it will serve as a new home for the study of that Arabic philosophy and science which gave fresh intellectual life to Europe

during the middle ages; that Sanskritic studies will find a worthy and equal place alongside Islamic studies; and that in this quiet intellectual centre in the great plains and waters of Eastern Bengal and in touch with a historic city, there may spring up a fresh synthesis of Eastern and Western studies." That is the ideal of the Dacca University; it tries to combine East and West and tries to build up an ideal system of teaching and tries to minimise the evils of the examining system for which the Calcutta University is so much responsible. Therefore, as soon as any money can be spared by this Council, I think Government are bound by pledges to redeem that and to spend as much money as possible on the development of this University. The Calcutta University Commission further stated: "We strongly urge that the University of Dacca should be established without further delay. The end of the war will, we hope, have eased the financial situation. But if the money available is not sufficient to provide at once for the full scheme which we propose, we hope that the University will be started on the lines laid down, and in such a way as to allow for its early enlargement and development." Therefore I think that our Hon'ble Minister took time by the forelock and gave to the Dacca University what he could. It is fair and just. I hope that our friends from Western Bengal who are trying to take the brief of the Calcutta University would remain silent for some time and allow the Dacca University to grow, so that the ideal university may be established and the ideal realized.

Maulvi YAKUINUDDIN AHMED: I oppose these motions for cuts in the grant to the Dacca University. The Dacca University has been newly established and is in an experimental stage. Therefore to criticize it on the amount of money that is being spent for it is not reasonable. Some time must elapse before we criticize the doings of the Dacca University and the work of its professors. At present there is a paid Vice-Chancellor, and the professors there are also being paid very high salaries. We must wait and see if they do their duty well. If the students who flock to the University are better trained than in other universities, I think that the money would be well spent. But if they are not, there would be time enough to cut down the expenditure on the University, but for the present I submit there ought not to be any cut in its expenditure. It has been said that the Dacca University has been given Rs. 9 lakhs, whereas the Calcutta University got less, but the Dacca University requires a lot of money for initial expenses. Therefore it must get a larger amount of contribution from Government, and that is the reason why it has been given more. In these circumstances I hope my friend will withdraw his motion for the reduction of the grant.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I desire at this stage to inform the Council of the views of the people of West Bengal. I can assure the Council and my Dacca friends that we have complete

sympathy with the progress of that new University, the infant University, which has been established not only by our Dacca friends but also by their friends in West Bengal for the benefit of Bengal. Professor Mukherji is an educationist and he ought to understand that education is not to be limited only to West Bengal but it should also include East Bengal; and this education is not for the benefit of the Hindus only or for the Muhammadans only. The University is a temple of Science in which there is no distinction between Hindus and Muhammadans. There is no kind of distinction of races there. Anyone who desires to study is allowed to come in and only on intellectual grounds to fight with each other. I am sorry to hear the learned speeches delivered by the several speakers when there was no necessity, for we cannot consider ourselves as mere talking machines. We must understand the drift of the arguments that have been put forward, and I submit to the Council that when the Hon'ble the Minister came forward with a proposition that the whole subject was to be considered, was it necessary for the hon'ble members to discuss it? I should think that there ought not to be any fight between East Bengal and West Bengal. We ought to be satisfied at present with the decision of Government on the subject It is true that we are required to give our consent to the demand which has been made, but at the same time an assurance had been given by His Excellency the Governor of Bengal that the subject was demanding his consideration Therefore I say again and again that this matter ought to be closed. There ought not to be any kind of quarrel between East Bengal and West Bengal. I remember that there was a German dramatist who came from his splendid seclusion and told the Prussians that a man must speak from heart to heart. I endorse that view and I do say to the Council that that ought to be the attitude of the House.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: In the chorus of excellent blessings upon the Dacca University, which is in the capital of my own district, I should not raise a discordant voice unless it is absolutely necessary. I was told this afternoon by one of the staunchest supporters of the Dacca University that the Dacca University consists of 160 students, or a few more than in the Presidency College, including Arabic and Sanskrit Departments. That being so, it makes me think that the Calcutta University, which is the medium of education of hundreds and thousands of boys of Bengal, should not be less patronized than the Dacca University, which is equal only to the Presidency College. You must remember that the Calcutta University teaches the youths of Bengal; it is to that University that the youths of Bengal look for education. May I ask my Muhammadan friend who was so eloquent whether he would like to send his boy to the Dacca University?—(A voice: Yes.)—I should like to see whether he does so. Now, whatever that may be, it is not to the Dacca University that the people of Bengal look for education. It is to the Calcutta University that they look for education and

that must be clearly understood. Therefore, the Calcutta University should be more generously patronized than the Dacca University. It may be said that a residential university costs more than an examining university. It is true, but is there no reason why Rs. 1,60,000 should be paid to the University which educates the entire youth of Bengal and Rs. 9,00,000 to a mere college? Now, Sir, my Muhammadan friends should see that——

Mr. DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: I hope you will try to cut short your speech.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: The Muhammadans are my best friends, and I will recommend them to grant Rs. 15 per month to 600 pupils who prosecute their studies in the Calcutta University to take their degrees. I want my Muhammadan boys to be as well educated as the Hindu boys, not only out of love for them, but out of self-interest, as I wish them to be educated on Western and scientific lines and that they may then get rid of their racial prejudices.

Mr. S. M. BOSE: My name is S. M. Bose and I come from East Mymensingh, but I deny that I am in any way opposed to this Dacca University, as has been wrongly attributed to me by Mr. Syed Nasim Ali.

Mr. DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: There was a comedy of errors.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: I rise to a point of explanation. I mistook Mr. Ajoy Chunder Dutt for Mr. S. M. Bose.

Mr. S. M. BOSE: Very well. I am sorry that Mr. Syed Nasim Ali had introduced points regarding Hindus and Muhammadans in this matter. I regret that Mr. Syed Nasim Ali should always drag in this communal question in everything. I would ask: What is the necessity for this? Education is one. It is neither for Hindus alone nor for Muhammadans alone, it does not cater only for Eastern Bengal or for Western Bengal. It caters for all alike. I therefore regret that Mr. Syed Nasim Ali should have thought fit to drag in communal matters at all. Although I do not agree with Mr. Ajoy Chunder Dutt, and although I think that all these grants for the Dacca University should be passed *in toto*; yet I may tell Mr. Syed Nasim Ali that Mr. Ajoy Chunder Dutt is the last person to be moved by any such anti-Muhammadan feeling, which Mr. Syed Nasim Ali though fit to attribute to him and to others like him.

Maulvi RAFI UDDIN AHMED: I oppose all these motions. My friends seem to forget that the Dacca University is the result of a pledge given to the people of East Bengal by Government. They also seem to forget that the Dacca University is in its infancy and so it requires greater care and attention and more expenditure than the old University of Calcutta. They also seem to forget that it is the only residential university in India. They also seem to forget that oriental languages are better taught at Dacca than at Calcutta. They further seem to forget

that religious education is imparted there along with secular education, whereas in the Calcutta University we have only secular education. They ought to know that it is a novel university after the pattern of Oxford and Cambridge, and so the expenditure there must be greater. I must tell this Council that while the Calcutta University has paid a stepmotherly attention to us, Musalmans, the Dacca University has at least shown a motherly affection to all its students, both Hindus and Muhammadans, and therefore we must support her. Sir, nobody questions the grant to the Calcutta University, but our sympathies are more for the Dacca University than the Calcutta University. If it is necessary, the Calcutta University should also get more money.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I have listened with as much attention as possible to the somewhat discursive eloquence of some of my hon'ble friends; but I must frankly confess that the discussion is not very instructive. Questions have been introduced which are absolutely irrelevant. (Hear, hear.) We have nothing to do with the question as to whether we should support the Calcutta University or the Dacca University. I think we should support both. (Hear, hear.) Education must be supported; whether that education is imparted by the Dacca University or the Calcutta University is a matter more of detail than of principle. But, Sir, since these irrelevant issues have been brought in, I would like to place certain facts before the Council. One of these facts is this: In all parts of the world a university which is solely a teaching university gets larger grants than a university which is partly teaching and partly affiliating.

Take, for example, the universities in Great Britain. The University of London used to get £8,000 up to the year 1920. That grant has since been raised to £19,000, and out of this £19,000, £3,000 is earmarked and the real grant is £16,000. Take the University of Manchester which is mainly a teaching university. Up to the year 1920 the State grant to the Manchester University was £43,909; the State grant to the Edinburgh University was £40,303; the State grant to the Glasgow University was £48,000; the State grants to the Oxford and Cambridge Universities used to be £30,000 and after the recent Commission they were raised to £1,00,000 to each of these universities.

It must be pretty obvious that a teaching university is only what in ordinary parlance we call the third and fourth year classes of an affiliated college together with the post-graduate classes of an affiliating university like the Calcutta University. Take, for example, the University of Calcutta and the Presidency College. The Presidency College is one of the many colleges affiliated to the Calcutta University. For the Presidency College Government spends Rs. 4,92,453, that is to say, nearly as much as the whole of the recurring grant of the Dacca University. The Calcutta University does not pay one rupee of these five lakhs towards the pay of the professors, lecturers, and teachers in the Presidency College.

On the other hand, the students who are taught in the Presidency College and who appear at the examinations of the Calcutta University have to pay their fee. That is the fundamental difference between a purely teaching university like that of Dacca and a partly teaching and partly affiliating university like that of Calcutta, and my hon'ble friends should always remember that difference—that a teaching university and an affiliating university stand on different footings. I desire to place certain further facts not from the point of view of comparison but for placing some materials before the Council. One of these facts is that we pay larger grants to the Calcutta University than any other provincial Government pays to any of their provincial affiliating universities, and there is a good justification for the larger grant because the activities of the Calcutta University in its teaching side in the post-graduate department are much larger than the activities of the other provincial universities of India. Now, the Bombay University, for example, gets a recurring grant of Rs. 67,000, the Patna University gets a recurring grant of Rs. 20,000, and a non-recurring grant of Rs. 4,000 odd. The Madras University used to get a recurring grant of Rs. 85,000, and last year it was raised to Rs. 1,24,000, and in the proposed budget for 1923-24 it is suggested to give it an additional capital grant of Rs. 2,15,000 for expenses in connection with the new University Bill recently passed by the Madras Government. Therefore, as compared with other provincial universities, our grant of over Rs. 1½ lakhs is higher, and in saying that our grant is over Rs. 1½ lakhs I am not taking into account the special grant of Rs. 5½ lakhs which we have already passed for the Calcutta University this year. But, Sir, I bring forward these facts not from the point of view of comparison but to enable members to appreciate the needs of two universities of two different types. My view is summed up in what I stated in this House only a few days ago. I sad then that our ambition should be to make the Calcutta University as great or even greater than the London University. In the picture I drew of the future I said that the Calcutta University should occupy a position analogous to that of the London University. We should go on increasing the grants to the Calcutta University and strengthen its position as the premier university in India. It should be the home of Indian culture; it should be the meeting ground of the East and the West, assimilating all that is best in the West with all that is best in the East—a university not only great in scientific pursuits but equally great in oriental and occidental learning. In short, a university which would be able to hold its own with any university in the world, for learning has no barrier of race or creed. I pointed out at the same time that Calcutta, in spite of its many advantages, can never develop itself into a residential university. I pointed out that an acre of land in College Square would cost more than Rs. 10,00,000 quite apart from the cost of the buildings to be erected or demolished. Then, I went on and pointed out that in my picture of the future the University of Dacca should be the residential university of Bengal, not merely for East Bengal but for West

Bengal as well. (Hear, hear.) I expressed the hope that in course of time the Dacca University would be the premier residential university of India and I trusted that with the goodwill of this House and the mutual goodwill of the Calcutta and the Dacca Universities, my hope of the future would be realized. We must not, however, forget that the Dacca University enjoys certain special facilities just as the Calcutta University enjoys other special facilities. A residential university can only grow where there is plenty of open space and Dacca possesses that advantage. It possesses the human element which is so necessary for the success of a great residential university. Eastern Bengal students, whether Muhammadans or Hindus, are very keen students. On the other hand, Calcutta possesses many advantages which Dacca cannot and does not possess. Calcutta is the capital of the province. Though it cannot any more claim to be the capital of India, we, in Bengal, certainly claim it to be the real capital of India. In any view of the matter, it is undoubtedly the second city of the British Empire. In culture, in education, and in many-sided activities, Calcutta occupies a unique place in Bengal—nay, in the whole of India. The best students from all parts of Bengal—nay, in the whole of India—flock to Calcutta. Now, these are the respective advantages and disadvantages of the two universities. Let us develop Calcutta to the best of our ability and at the same time develop Dacca to the best of our ability. Let us banish narrow parochial considerations from the question of education; let us banish class questions from educational institutions; let us remember that knowledge has no barrier, but at the same time we must not forget that Moslem culture is different from the culture of the Hindus in many aspects. (Hear, hear.) We must realize that if we want the Bengali nation as a nation to advance, we cannot have true advance if 56 per cent. of the nation, our Moslem brethren, lag behind; neither must we overlook the cardinal fact that Moslem culture, at any rate what the Mussalmans themselves want that culture to be, is somewhat different from Hindu culture. But apart from special Moslem culture and special Hindu culture, there is the great field of expansion of knowledge for its own sake. As I have said, true knowledge knows no barrier of caste or creed. Therefore, Sir, my appeal to the House is—let us not enter into unnecessary controversies; let us pass all these grants both with regard to the Dacca and the Calcutta Universities. Now, there are one or two specific points which I have been called upon to answer.

Mr. Ajoy Chunder Dutt has made certain criticisms about the internal administration of the Dacca University. I put it to my esteemed friend, how would he like if I ordered an inquiry into the internal administration of the Calcutta University? I fancy he would not like that at all. May I not therefore ask him to apply the same rule to the Dacca University? I informed the House a few days ago, and I repeat it to-day, that we have deputed two officers, one of the Finance Department and another of the Education Department, to go into the whole question of the Dacca University budget with the authorities of the Dacca University. I made

the offer a few days ago, and I repeat it to-day, that if the two members on the Retrenchment Committee we had from this House (Mr. Surendra Nath Mallik and Rai Abinash Chandra Banerjee Bahadur) would like to go into the matter, I shall be willing to place all facilities before them and the Dacca University authorities are quite willing to meet them. Therefore, what is the good of discussing questions like these in this Council? We should not go into the question whether Rs. 1,000 spent on a definite purpose has been properly spent or not. That is a matter which can only be discussed in a conference. As I have made that offer, I do not think I need go into the various questions which have been raised, but there is one question which is more or less of principle and to which I should like to refer. It has been said that there is duplication of studies in the Dacca University and the Calcutta University and that there is no co-ordination between them. I should have thought that the announcement made by His Excellency would set the matter at rest. But apart from what His Excellency stated, there is another very important point of view, and from that point of view it will appear that that criticism is based on a great mistake. Well, Sir, because we call the Calcutta University a university and we call the Dacca University a university, we should not forget the fundamentals of the question. Take the Rajshahi College, for example. Should we not have a college at Rajshahi? It is affiliated to the Calcutta University, but many of the Rajshahi boys want to be taught in their own town or district and therefore we want a college there. Now although that college is affiliated to the Calcutta University we spend over that college about Rs. 1½ lakhs annually. Similarly in the old days, before the Dacca University was established, we used to spend on the Dacca College about Rs. 2,30,000, besides a certain amount for the Jagannath College. Speaking from memory, I think we used to spend about Rs. 3 lakhs for the boys of Dacca to be taught in the town of Dacca. Supposing the Dacca University be abolished and the Dacca College and the Jagannath College are re-established and affiliated to the Calcutta University, will it not be necessary for the State to spend Rs. 3 lakhs for the Dacca Colleges merely for the purpose of teaching boys at Dacca? Therefore, let us not confuse facts. Let us not get away from the fundamentals. If the Dacca University was not established, then the colleges in the town of Dacca affiliated to the Calcutta University would have cost us about the same sum. Now, with regard to the question of duplication this is a complete answer. You must also remember that you cannot have a university without its cultural side. A university is not a workshop. You must have a cultural side. Even these modern universities of England, to which some of my esteemed friends are so fond of referring, the Universities of Manchester or Glasgow or Leeds, are not mere workshops and they have their cultural side.

So, as I have said, you cannot have a university which has no cultural side. The Dacca University therefore must have its cultural side. When you have a vocational side, even that vocational side must be partly

cultural. The Dacca boy, before the establishment of the Dacca University, had facilities for studying law or philosophy or sanskrit or theoretical science in his own town. Should he be deprived of these opportunities? I should think not. What we should aim at is to superimpose vocational studies over the purely cultural side of the University activities. I do not wish to take up any more time of the Council.

Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY: Before you put this question to the Council, may I ask the Hon'ble the Minister a question?

Mr. DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: Yes.

Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY: How does the Hon'ble the Minister justify the action of Government in throwing upon the shoulders of the Dacca University the old professors of the now defunct Dacca College who get salaries much higher than the gentlemen who are in the ordinary Dacca University service? Is it also a fact that Rs. 30,000 is taken annually from the University to provide or to add to the pension funds of these gentlemen?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: Although it is not a point of order and although I feel that it is absolutely irrelevant to the question under discussion, I have no objection to answer this question. Is the Dacca University an autonomous body? I put that question to my friend. If it is an autonomous body, it is open to it to keep these professors and it has chosen to keep them. My friend is a member of the Court of the Dacca University and he ought to put that question there.

The motion of Professor S. C. Mukherji was put and lost.

The motions of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta and Mr. Ajoy Chunder Dutt were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Rishindra Nath Sarkar was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 13,57,000 under the head '31E.—Grants to Universities' be reduced by Re. 1."

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 13,000 under the head '31.—Education—Transferred—Government Arts Colleges—Travelling Allowance' be reduced to Rs. 10,000."

[At this stage the Hon'ble the President returned to the Chair.]

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: I move that the demand of Rs. 11,85,000 under the head "Government Arts Colleges" be reduced by Re. 1.

In Bengal there are altogether 36 Arts Colleges. Of these 36, 8 are

Government colleges, 13 are aided private colleges, 1 is a municipal college, and there are 14 unaided private colleges, thus totalling 36. The 8 Government colleges cost—I am giving the 1922 figures—Rs. 11,55,581. The aided private colleges, including the municipal college, cost Rs. 7,45,645 and the 14 unaided private colleges cost Rs. 7,26,642, totalling Rs. 26,27,868. The 8 Government colleges cater for 3,102 students, the 14 aided private colleges including the municipal college for 5,948 students, and the 14 unaided private colleges for 7,892 students thus totalling 16,942 students. That shows that the 8 Government colleges cater for less than 20 per cent. of the college-going population in this province. If you estimate the cost per student, the students of the Government colleges cost Rs. 375 per head, those of the aided private colleges Rs. 127 per head, and those of the non-aided private colleges Rs. 89 per head; or in other words Government colleges cost three times as much as aided private colleges and more than four times as much as unaided private colleges. The relevant question that arises from these figures is, is there real justification for this expenditure of Rs. 11½ lakhs which cater for less than 20 per cent. of the students? I think if the Hon'ble the Minister can show that though the expenditure in Government colleges is very high, still there is full justification for it, I shall accept it. On one ground and one ground alone can the expenditure of this money be justified, and that is on the ground that these Government colleges are highly efficient and model colleges. If they are, I have not one word to say, but if the Government colleges, not even excluding the Presidency College of Calcutta, are not looked upon either as model colleges or highly efficient colleges, I find much difficulty in reconciling the expenditure in proportion to the cost that it entails upon the provincial revenues. Where there is no college, Government must maintain an institution, and out of these 8 colleges, 6 are in areas where there no other colleges, and therefore I think Government is justified in maintaining them. But Government has no justification for this large expenditure; it must curtail expenditure. Either it must maintain model institutions and justify the expenditure or it must only spend as much money as can be legitimately spent on ordinary educational institutions. It has absolutely no justification for spending three or four times more money than any other private aided or unaided institutions. Where there is already a college catering for a particular area, Government has no justification for maintaining a college of its own in that area. I put it to the Minister: What justification is there for the Arts Department of the Presidency College in Calcutta? I put it to him seriously. This is no whit better than some of the existing colleges in Calcutta. [A voice: Question!] I said this in my preliminary budget speech and I repeat it. I admit that there is full justification for the Science Department of the Presidency College, but I do not see that there is any justification for the large sum of money that is spent on the Arts side of the Presidency College in the province. There are other highly efficient colleges which have beaten the Presidency

College year after year in every University examination. [A voice: Question!] My principle is that where the people have come forward to take up the responsibility of education, Government must withdraw. When people wake up to their responsibility and takeup the cause of education, it is the duty of Government to withdraw from that area. The cutting of one rupee does not mean the introduction of any drastic method, but it means that the time has come when the educational policy of Government must be reconsidered and restated. The Retrenchment Committee too has raised this question and the judgment of the Retrenchment Committee is that Government colleges are neither model colleges nor pioneer colleges, and therefore, barring the Presidency College, all other colleges must be deprovincialized. I think the proposition is wholly unsound. The time has not come when Government colleges can be deprovincialized, but the time has come when the expenditure on Government colleges must be substantially reduced, and the time has come when Government must withdraw from those areas where the people have taken up the cause of education and are doing that for which Government colleges served at the beginning. Where that purpose has been served where there is no use for them any longer, it is the duty of Government to withdraw. There is another matter which I wish to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble the Minister, and that is that money ought to be saved by retrenchment in Government colleges and substantial contributions should be made to aided private colleges. There are private colleges which are doing their level best to render conspicuous service in the cause of education, and I think it is not unreasonable to appeal to the Hon'ble the Minister to see that such private colleges as are doing their very best for the cause of education, should receive ample consideration at the hands of the Government.

With these few words, I put this motion before the House.

The members being absent, the following motions standing in their names were deemed to be withdrawn:—

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand of Rs. 4,000 under the head '31E.—Education—University—Travelling Allowance for teachers in Training Colleges' be reduced by Rs. 2,000."

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 86,000 under the head '31E.—Training Colleges for Teachers' be refused."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 86,000 under the head '31E.—Education—Transferred—Training Colleges for Teachers' be reduced to Rs. 45,000 by abolishing the Training College at Dacca.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the demand of Rs. 31,97,000 under the head '31.—Education—University' be reduced by Re. 1."

Rai JOCENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: The question whether the Government colleges should be abolished, is a question upon which we are not inclined to be guided by the opinion of Professor Mukherji. Indeed, the question whether the Hooghly College should be abolished is a question which the people of Hooghly will answer. We are not here to hear interested discourses. We, the people of Bengal——

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: I rise to a point of order on a question of principle—the principle underlying the educational policy of Government regarding Government colleges. I do not think the Rai Bahadur is justified in making any personal remarks on a general basic principle——

Mr. PRESIDENT: There is nothing personal in it, Professor; you should not be so thin-skinned. The mention of the Hooghly College is only a debating point.

Rai JOCENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: We, the people of Bengal, the graduates of Bengal, are the best judges in this matter, and we say here—I stand here representing them in this Council—that not a pice should be cut down for the Government colleges. It is a useless waste of time to discuss the matter.

Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur: I am glad that Professor Mukherji has raised the question of the educational policy of our Government. It is high time for the Government to consider whether its educational policy should be revised or not. There are the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee. These recommendations have been much criticized in the country, and it is not for this House to consider the question of retrenchment in all its bearings. First of all, there are the recommendations with regard to the deprovincialization of all Government colleges; next to that is the question of the deprovincialization of all Government schools. These two questions should be duly taken into consideration. I am quite prepared to give these matters due consideration, if they are accepted by the country. Government, for many years to come, should continue to maintain first-class colleges in this country for promoting higher education. It has been said in connection with several questions that the educational system in this country is top-heavy; that is to say, Government spends more money on higher education than on primary or secondary education. That may or may not be true; but I think that education is a process of downward filtration. When we have secured satisfactory higher education, I take it that education will filter down to the masses very gradually, but surely; so it is up to the Government to maintain a high standard of higher education in

this country, i.e., a high standard of university education. We have debated for nearly an hour or more on the question of the grant to the Dacca University. To my mind, the grant to the University is not quite adequate according to the circumstances of the country, and if the money spent over education is compared with that spent in other countries, we shall have to hide our faces in shame. Not even 10 per cent. of the revenue do we spend on education. We have got to live, so we have to spend large sums on medical aid and sanitation, etc., but at the same time for our spiritual welfare and for the advancement of civilization it is necessary that a very considerable portion of the public revenue should be spent over education. With regard to education, Sir, it has been said that there are three great defects in our system; and these are not my discoveries. I find them in a book edited under the authority of the Government of India, by Mr. Rushbrook Williams. The educational system has three important defective phases. We have no properly trained teachers, they are sadly missing in our system. Secondly, there is little incentive for people of the right sort to enter the teaching profession. Thirdly, Indian education is too much dominated by the examination system. That, Sir, puts the whole educational problem in a nutshell. It was with the object of removing that domination of the examination system that the Dacca University was started. We want teaching universities all over the country and not simply examining universities. Of course, the Calcutta University has of late been drifting towards the position of a teaching university. As regards the maintenance of costly Government colleges, I think, that for some time to come, we want the very best men—the very best from an educational point of view—as teachers and lecturers in our colleges. If the very best men are to be attracted, they must be sufficiently paid. The second defect which has been mentioned by Mr. Rushbrook Williams can only be removed if you pay sufficiently for men of real education and proper calibre to take up chairs in our Government Arts colleges, so that there may be incentive enough for men of the right stamp to enter the teaching profession. In this country, our best scholars do not care to enter the teaching profession. The profession of Law is more alluring, even the Medical profession is more alluring, than the profession of teaching; the teaching profession is nowhere. If the best men go to Law and Medicine, the young men, the youth of this country, will not profit by the education they receive in the University. That, Sir, brings us to another question, and the question will come before the Council in connection with the training colleges. Another defect is the lack of properly trained teachers. Now, of course, whether teaching as an art has to be specially cultivated or not, we want that the teaching profession should be sufficiently alluring to attract the best men of the country; not only of this country, but of England and the rest of the world. Thus the money Government spends is too little for the purpose. I am exceedingly sorry that the Retrenchment Committee did not consider the question of higher payment to teachers along with the question of

higher payment to teachers along with the question of sanitation and medical aid. Their recommendation in this respect seems to have been very lightly given; and it appears to my mind that we should never think of abolishing the Government colleges for many years to come.

As regards high schools, that is a different question entirely. If Government thinks that about the right course to follow, then it should distribute the money spent on education as grants-in-aid to private schools of sufficient status and position. There is no special reason as to why Government should be anxious to maintain high schools at enormous costs. Government wants education to spread in the country, and without education our position is hopeless in all conscience and all this disturbing political agitation is due to want of proper education. The only method of stopping this misguided political agitation, is to spread education among the vast population of the country of all castes and creeds. The system of genuine national education is, by itself, the real work of nation-building. Most of our young men are led astray for want of education and go in for undesirable political agitation. If the whole political problem is to be solved, the educational problem will have to be taken into serious consideration. I think the Government should sincerely tackle this problem; and its proper handling will lead to the solution of the difficulties that confront the Government of this country.

In connection with the resolution under discussion, I think it is enough to say that we do not want that Government Colleges should be abolished; we do not want money to be saved on this head, i.e., education. We want more money for education. I think, after the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee have been considered by the Government, as promised by His Excellency, in the July session, the surplus money secured should be spent on education.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: I must thank Professor Mukherji for bringing this resolution with the object of giving us an opportunity of discussing the educational policy of Government. We have come here to make the Reforms a success, and I think, Sir, the pillar of our success will depend upon education, but the education must be both of Hindus and Muhammadans. The more you realise the cause of Muhammadan education, the more you realise *swaraj*. I think Government should understand that clearly. Sir, during the last three years, I have watched the educational activities of the Government so far as the Muhammadans are concerned, and I must say that we have many grievances to be redressed. I must also say that Government is apathetic towards Muhammadan education. I pointedly bring it to the notice of the Hon'ble the Minister for Education that the educational needs of this community, which forms more than 50 per cent. of the population, must be given special importance, otherwise you will never be able to build the Indian nation. It is a well-known fact that with the desire for getting higher education the Muhammadans are flocking in large numbers to several colleges, but it is very unfortunate that all the Muhammadan students do not get seats

in them. I do not know what is the reason. It may be due to lack of accommodation in the colleges, but it is absolutely clear that the Muhammadan students, after having passed the Matriculatiou examination, are knocking at the doors of members of the Bengal Legislative Council and are asking us to find out for them a means of admittiug them into these colleges. I bring to the notice of the Hon'ble the Minister for Education the lamentable fact that the young Moslems of Bengal, who are very anxious to get higher education, are unable to secure admission into the colleges. It is also abundantly clear that Government felt this necessity. It is also abundantly clear, as our Hon'ble Minister has said, that Moslem education, though it may not be purely sectarian, has still something peculiar in it, which cannot be denied. As our Education Minister has said to-day, "the educational ideals of the Moslems certainly differ to some extent from those of the other communities," in that view I would request the Hon'ble the Minister to give effect to the policy which he has enunciated to-day, namely, that in the case of Muhammadan education, there are certain features which must be recognized by Government. Sir, to meet all these difficulties there had been a suggestion that the Muhammadans should have an arts college of their own in Calcutta. A site was acquired by Government, but that site is now being occupied by a busy circus company near Wellesley Square. During these three years of the Reforms Scheme, nothing whatever has been done to advance the cause of Muhammadan education, and I feel it very strongly when I find that in spite of the Reforms we are not getting that amount of accommodation which is absolutely necessary for the attainment of our goal of *swaraj* for India. I cannot understand why no serious attempt is being made to establish that arts college for Muhammadans. It is absolutely necessary that such an attempt should be made. Sir, we are always faced by the statement that there are financial difficulties, that there are financial stringencies. It is all true, but we all know that the Reforms will be reviewed after nine years; a third of that period has passed and still nothing has been done for the advancement of Muhammadan education. When the Royal Commission arrives, Sir, six years hence, I think they will find the Muhammadans where they were, with the result that the Muhammadans will not be in a position to join hands with the Hindus in demanding further reforms for the country. Therefore it is indispensable that, for the welfare of India as a whole, immediate steps should be taken to advince Muhammadan education.

Professor Mukherji has suggested that retrenchments are possible in various quarters. I do not for a moment suggest that Government colleges should be deprovincialized or that there is no necessity for the existence of any Government college. What I say is this: that in Government colleges Muhammadans are not getting their adequate share of seats [A voice: Question!] It is clear from the number of applications coming from Muhammadan students which are rejected by the Government colleges, that this is a statement which cannot be questioned. It is

absolutely certain that in these Government arts colleges a large amount of money is being spent, and it is absolutely clear that certainly this money is being met from provincial revenue. Sir, it may be said that the Muhammadan community cannot have a particular claim upon the provincial revenue and therefore the Muhammadan community cannot expect that a certain number of seats should be reserved for Muhammadan students in the arts colleges. To that my short and simple reply is—whether Muhammadans do want a certain number of seats to be reserved for Muhammadan students would depend upon this most important fact, that education is a transferred subject which we have got under the Reforms. Could the Indians have got the Reforms if the Muhammadans had not joined? I put it to the Government to consider whether it was at all possible for any particular community to have the Reforms if the Muhammadans had not joined. Therefore, the importance of the Muhammadan community is to be judged from that standpoint and not from the standpoint of the actual amount of money paid from the provincial coffers; not from the number of graduates or M.A.'s or B.A.'s.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: On a point of order, Sir. Is all this relevant to the question?

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not like to check the hon'ble member's flow of eloquence.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: Government ought to remember this fact while shaping and moulding its educational policy. If Government comes with the reply that Muhammadans themselves have got no special claims, my reply is this—"But for me you would not have got the Reforms and I am more than 52 per cent. in Bengal. I demand my rights—give me my educational facilities, otherwise I do not care for the Reforms. If under the Reforms my share of education be refused and my community does not get a sufficient number of seats and does not get the advantage of the Reforms, then what does this reform mean?" Therefore, I would like to press upon the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister for Education this important fact, that there must be sufficient facilities for Muhammadan education; the policy of Muhammadan education must be that there must be a certain number of seats reserved for Muhammadan students in all Government arts colleges and, further, that Muhammadans must receive education from an Islamic point of view also. There must be a special arts college for Muhammadans where Muhammadans will be able to study Islamic ideals, and where Muhammadan boys receive education may know how they can unite Islamic civilization with Western civilization—a college which should be placed under the authority and guidance of Muhammadans, so that that arts college can set up that ideal before Government. We must be given that opportunity. The more you delay the matter, the more you delay the cause of the Reforms.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Gentlemen, as the House has made such progress with the budget discussion, it will not be necessary to sit on Saturday.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I have heard with attention the remarks which have been made by Professor Mukherji. I consider that many of the views expressed by the Retrenchment Committee are wrong on the head "Education." The very idea of provincialization of the mufassal colleges is, in my opinion, absurd. Now, so far as it appears, if retrenchments be made with regard to those colleges, those retrenchments ought to be made very carefully in consideration of many facts. If anything valuable—if anything useful—has been done in this country by the British Government, it is the spread of education for the last 200 years. The percentage of literacy in Bengal, consisting of 45 millions, is not more than 7½ per cent. It is necessary, therefore, that education ought to be spread speedily and in a more efficient way. But, we, the people of this country cannot afford to see these colleges deprovincialized or, in other words, abolished, and I hope and trust that Government will consider the views of the people of this country before they accept the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee. So far as the Hooghly College is concerned, I submit to the Council that it stands upon a higher level. There are various considerations which will lead Government to consider the claims of that college. With regard to the other mufassal colleges, the same observations may be submitted. With regard to the high schools, they ought to be encouraged by Government, and if any drastic step is taken, I submit it will ruin the cause of education. Government aid to schools ought to be continued, but that is a problem which I leave to the educational authorities to consider.

I have listened with all attention to the observations of Mr. Syed Nasim Ali. I have said in this Council times without number that in the temple of Science there ought not to be any distinction between Muhammadans and Hindus—all knock at the gates of the University or of the colleges, or schools and they are admitted by the college or school authorities according to their merits. There cannot be any national improvement unless Hindus and Muhammadans look upon themselves as brothers. The Muhammadans should not ask for special colleges. They ought not to do that and if they do, they will be the losers in the bargain in the long run. How can a special college be opened for Muhammadans only and not for other nationalities? How can seats be kept reserved for Muhammadans only and not for other people as well? It is a problem which I have often asked myself and I have not yet been able to arrive at a conclusion. It is known to me that there are reserved seats in Dacca colleges and subsequently in the Dacca University for Muhammadans; and am I to understand therefore that Government have not paid adequate attention to the cause of Muhammadan education in this country? I put this question seriously to the Council, and the answer

will be that Government have been very kind and generous to the cause of education in this country.—[Mr. Syed Nasim Ali: Question!]—But it is a fact and an absolute truth. My friend, Mr. Syed Nasim Ali, has again come forward with his proposal for introducing communal interest in the temple of Science. He should take a broad and liberal view of the matter. If the communal system is introduced in the temple of Science, I say India is doomed—doomed for ever! I live in a classical town, which was once the second capital of Bengal. I live with Muhammadans and I look to their interests. Many Muhammadans were my teachers and I know their feeling. They tell the country that Muhammadans and Hindus are of one nationality. If you depart from that idea, you will be put to great difficulties hereafter. I say once for all, do not separate the cause of Muhammadans from that of Hindus. We are living in the same land, drinking the same water, and are under the patronage of the same Government. Kindly, therefore, do not differentiate in matters of education. If you do that, I say, Mr. Syed Nasim Ali, it will kill the cause of Indian national education.

Mr. PRESIDENT: You should not address any member personally, Mahendra Babu.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I repeat that if such views are entertained, the cause of education will be killed; and I repeat once more, do not talk of education if you want to assert yourself simply for the cause of Muhammadans and not for the common good of the country. I repeat again, that view cannot be entertained by any civilized Government. That view was never entertained by British statesmen, and if you go back and read the history of 1854, you will notice that there was no such kind of distinction between Muhammadans and Hindus. We take special care for the cause of Muhammadan boys in my own town. We look after them. We find out seats for them, and if seats are not vacant, I can assure you, Hindu boys are asked to attend other colleges. I am grieved very much to hear one of the speakers come forward and demand a special arts college for Muhammadans—a special college for agriculture. I say once more, Hindus and Muhammadans are brothers. They must be educated in the same college. There must be competition between them. Competition is the only test by which a nation can rise in the estimation of those who understand what solid education really is.

Professor Mukherji has put forward a simple motion for the reduction of a certain amount, and I am quite at a loss to understand why this question of Muhammadan education has come to play its part in the discussion. The report of the Retrenchment Committee will be carefully gone into by Government, and then you will have an opportunity of expressing your views on the matter. But I request the members of this Council not to pay any attention to the question of communal interest

in the temple of Science. I ask them, I entreat them, I beseech them not to be influenced by the observations which have been made by my friend, Mr. Syed Nasim Ali.

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: I have listened with a certain amount of surprise to the speech of my friend, Mr. Syed Nasim Ali. Ever since the discussion of the Calcutta Municipal Bill, he always begins his speeches as if he is the champion of the Muhammadan community, and ends them with a threat. (Hear, hear.) Probably he imagines that because his threat has proved successful to a certain extent on one occasion, it will prove equally successful on other occasions also. He holds out his threat because he hopes that it will pay on every occasion, and he threatens the Hon'ble the Minister that unless the suggestions made by him are carried out, he will have nothing to do with the Reforms. We have all heard of the saying: "Ignorance is bliss." My friend, Mr. Syed Nasim Ali, has illustrated that saying in his speech. I have every sympathy with my friend for his ignorance. My friend argues: Why should not special seats be reserved for Muhammadans in Government schools and colleges? My friend comes from the district of Howrah and is a practising lawyer of Alipore Court. When he goes out of this Hall, he makes himself busy with the briefs of his clients and does not care to ascertain any information about the subjects on which he delivers his speeches in this Council. As a lawyer he has got to deal with facts and evidence in the pursuit of his profession. The members of this Council will be surprised to hear that the demand made by him in his last speech, that the Government should reserve special seats for Muhammadan students in the Government schools and colleges, had been complied with by the Government long before he became a member of this Council, and there are a certain number of seats specially reserved for Muhammadans in schools and colleges. I am sure that the Hon'ble the Minister and Mr. Hornell will bear me out.—[Mr. Syed Nasim Ali: How many seats?]—I am not to be interrupted like this. My friend's contention was that seats must be reserved for Muhammadan students in Government schools and colleges, and I may say that seats have been reserved for them for many years past, and my friend, without knowing the fact, comes and demands reserved seats for Muhammadans. Speeches of this sort show that, without caring to ascertain the real facts, my friend comes before the Council with such a demand, probably with a view to show the public and the Muhammadan community that he is their champion.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: Is my friend in order in making a remark like that?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Mr. Nasim Ali, it does not do to be too thin-skinned.

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: My friend must have delivered his speech with the hope that it may be published in the morning papers and that he will be considered as the champion of the Muhammadan community.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Most members hope, Nitya Dhon Babu, that their speeches will be published in the morning papers.

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: What I want to say is that he is certainly one of them. My friend must have evidently thought it a waste of time to make inquiries on the subject before delivering a speech. Otherwise, only a question to the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Education or to Mr. Hornell would have put an end to this kind of unpleasant speeches.

My friend says to-day:—We do not want the Reforms—we will have the Reforms wrecked. Sir, may I ask my friend—where would he have been had there been no Reforms? Could he have ever dreamt of entering this Hall and being a member of this august assembly but for the Reforms. Are Hindus the only persons who are getting the advantages of the Reforms and not the Muhammadans? The members of this Council will simply laugh at my friend's conduct when he was about to weep for the reduction of the grant for the Dacca University, as he has nothing to do with that University, being himself a resident of Howrah and a lawyer of the 24-Parganas. He should know that he is acting as an enemy to both these communities by delivering such speeches. Because one Minister showed a certain amount of sympathy and yielded to a certain extent to the demands of the Muhammadans, my friend imagines that he has only to hold out threats to other Ministers, with the result that they will also climb down. I would most respectfully ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education not to submit to such a threat in the least. We Hindus can also say that we do not want the Reforms. If we, the Hindus, are to get so much of the Reforms as may be dictated by Mr. Syed Nasim Ali, in that case I say that we, the Hindus, do not want the Reforms; let us go back where we were before the Reforms came into existence. Hot words and lengthy speeches will not do. We have had enough of them.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: May I explain, Sir, that I never stated that I wanted it for Muhammadans only? I never said I wanted it for Muhammadans only. I wanted it for both for Hindus and Muhammadans. [Cries of: Of course, you said so.]

Babu NITYA DHON MUKHERJEE: I submit that if all the advantages are to go to the Muhammadan community, then we, the Hindus, would refuse to have anything to do with the Reforms. As regards my

friend's personal explanation, may I ask him, if he wants education for both Hindus and Muhammadans, why does he insist on Islamic ideals being put into his educational policy? Why does he want a mixture of Islamic and Western education, and why does he not want a blending of Islamic and Hindu culture? Sir, my friend in his speech has tried to show that Hindus have got all the advantages of the Reforms and that Muhammadans are in the background. Sir, the very presence of my friend here shows that the Muhammadans are far from being kept in the background. It is all very well to say that we do not want the Reforms. If that is meant as a threat, I can also assure my friend that such threats will fail to produce the desired effect any more. Let my friend take note of the fact that not only the Muhammadans but the Hindus also have the power of wrecking the Reforms. Finally, I would respectfully urge the Hon'ble the Minister for Education not to submit an inch to the threats of my friend, Mr. Syed Nasim Ali, posing as the champion of the Muhammadan cause.

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: My hon'ble friend, Mr. Syed Nasim Ali, has asked on behalf of his community its just share in the educational institutions. His contention is that the Muhammadans are very anxious to have university education. But, Sir, if he had read the report of the last University Commission, presided over by no less a personage than Sir Michael Sadler, he would have seen that out of a total of 23,000 students in the arts colleges in Bengal, only 2,300 are Muhammadans, and the proportion should be judged by this figure, and not by the population of the whole province of Bengal. That is the real test, and there can be no other test.

I am surprised—and it is indeed sickening—that my friend should, in season and out of season, put forward the claims of the Muhammadan community in the way that he does. My hon'ble friend says that but for the Muhammadans the Reforms would have been a failure, and he bases his claim on the importance of the Muhammadan community in the whole of India. Speaking of the importance of the Muhammadan community, I may remind my hon'ble friend—and it is the considered judgment of no less an historian than the late Sir William Hunter—that the British took possession of India not from the Muhammadans, but from the Hindus, the great Mogul being then a puppet in the hands of the Mahrattas.

They took the Punjab and the frontier provinces not from the Pathans but from the descendants of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, and lastly, the battle of Kirkee which decided the fate of India, was fought with the Mahrattas and not with the Muhammadans.

Mr. KRISHNA CHANDRA RAY CHAUDHURI: We are not surely discussing the history of India.

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: I was only reminding my hon'ble friend, Mr. Syed Nasim Ali, that his arguments regarding the importance of the Muhammadan community in India tend to show that but for the Muhammadans the existence of the Hindus and Britishers in India would have been impossible.

Maulvi MAHAMMED MADASSUR HUSSAIN: I am grieved to hear the speeches which have been delivered by Babu Nitya Dhon Mukherjee and Rai Fanindralal De Bahadur. Because the question of facilities for Muhammadan education is raised, these gentlemen are raising their voices, but I wish you, gentlemen—

Mr. PRESIDENT: You must not address the Council; you must address the chair, please.

Maulvi MAHAMMED MADASSUR HUSSAIN: What are these Hindus and Muhammadans? If you like to be a nation, you must both regard each other as brothers. Hindus and Muhammadans are brothers. Then consider the Muhammadans as the younger brothers. The Muhammadans are just like infants. The Muhammadans are coming from the womb of the mother. Do they not require nourishment and help? You are the elder brothers, and it is your duty to nurture the younger brothers—it is your duty to nourish the younger brothers. Unless you give them milk they will die. And what will be your condition? You will lose your younger brothers. So Hindus and Muhammadans are brothers. Does not sickness require nurture and nourishment? Do you think that Muhammadans can cope with you in point of wealth? Do you think the Muhammadans will be able to cope with you in point of education? No, they will not. I say it is your duty to nurture the younger brothers. Therefore when the Muhammadans want educational facilities it is your duty to support them. Among the 90 per cent. of the educated Indians, only 10 per cent. are Muhammadans. So it is the duty of the Hindu elder brothers to make the Muhammadan younger brothers so educated that they will be placed on an equal footing with Hindus. Therefore Muhammadans ask for equal facilities for educational advantages and it is the duty of their Hindu brothers to support them. The Hindus say we are smaller in numbers, and so they have fixed 25 per cent. seats in the colleges according to the Muhammadan numbers. But, Sir, the same number which used to attend colleges ten years before has increased now and 25 per cent. is not sufficient. Why should you grudge them? If you have any regard for your own country, you will support the Muhammadans. Sir, the country does not mean trees, lands and houses. It means population—Muhammadans and Hindus, who are the inhabitants of Bengal. Your number of educated men is 90 per cent. and our number is 10 per cent. So it is your duty to help us and to give us facilities, otherwise you are not brothers but

you are enemies. Therefore, all those hon'ble members like Babu Nitya Dhon Mukherjee and Rai Fanindralal De Bahadur, who demur to educational facilities which my friend, Mr. Syed Nasim Ali, wants to be given, are enemies and not brothers.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The debate has taken the form of a veritable typhoon and it is the duty of the captain to take the ship out of it. I will, therefore, not call upon any more speakers except Mr. Krishna Chandra Ray Chaudhuri, who, I hope, will avoid controversial matters.

Mr. KRISHNA CHANDRA RAY CHAUDHURI: I do not see the relevancy of my friend Mr. Syed Nasim Ali's argument in favour of Muhammadan education in connection with the demand for this grant. I do not see how a communal question can be raised in a matter like this. I am opposed to separate education for Muhammadans, and, for the matter of that, for any community. It checks the growth of friendship and brotherhood between Hindu and Moslem boys. Aligarh University made this mistake in the beginning but soon rectified it by throwing open its doors to Hindus and Muhammadans. The Hindu University has made the same mistake and I think it will repent before long. It is in schools and colleges that the boys of different communities will learn to respect each other, and if there are separate institutions for Hindus and Muhammadans, the gulf between the two communities, instead of being bridged, will be widened.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: May I rise to a point of personal explanation? I never suggested that there should be separate institutions throughout. What I suggested was that the arts college which had already been sanctioned for Muhammadans should be established. I did not mean that there should be separate Muhammadan institutions throughout the province.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That is a very long personal explanation, Mr. Syed Nasim Ali.

Mr. KRISHNA CHANDRA RAY CHAUDHURI: It cannot be said that the Hindus get facilities in educational matters at the expense of the Muhammadans. Can any Muhammadan say that he could not get any seat for Muhammadan boys in any of the colleges? I am at a loss to understand how anyone can say that by its educational policy the Government shows undue favour to the Hindus.

Apart from all this, however, my chief point is that this large expenditure of 11 lakhs and odd rupees on arts colleges is extravagance. I submit that primary education must predominate the educational policy of Government. But I find that a little over 27 lakhs out of a total grant of 1 crore and 18 lakhs is budgeted for primary education. We all know that the revenue of Bengal, which comes to about 10 crores, is chiefly derived from the raiyats. Out of this 10 crores, they are going to get only

27 lakhs for the education of their children. What is the good of the Education Department if there be no expansion of primary education? The whole department, the Minister for Education, the Director, and all the rest of it should be combined and should be called Ministry of Primary Education. That, Sir, will help us to maintain the progress of self-government which we are all so anxious to have.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: Let me dispose of this somewhat subsidiary but heated point that has been raised—I might almost say somewhat irrelevant point that has been raised. The motion of Professor Mukherji is based on the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee. It may be perfectly within the right of any member to go into any question of policy on that motion. I do not technically question that right, but I do say, Sir, that it is not fair to enter into a question of this kind. The questions which have been raised by my friend Mr. Syed Nasim Ali, should have been first discussed with the Education Minister. During the last two years Mr. Syed Nasim Ali never complained to me that I neglected Muhammadan interests or that I treated the Moslems unfairly. I think it was not right on the part of a member like Mr. Syed Nasim Ali to have put forth the points that he did put forth. But, Sir, the limit was reached and he took my breath away when he threatened and said he would rather not have the Reforms unless he was assured of special treatment for the Muhammadans. Sir, I believe Mr. Syed Nasim Ali himself in his cooler moments will regret that statement. I have enough respect for Mr. Syed Nassim Ali to think that tomorrow morning he will be the first person to say that he was very wrong. I have enough faith in my Muhammadan countrymen to think that if that be the considered opinion of Mr. Syed Nasim Ali he will be in the minority of one. May I remind my Muhammadan countrymen, and specially the esteemed leaders of that community like the Nawab Sahib and Sir Abd-ur-Rahim, what the great Muhammadan statesman—Sir Syed Ahmed—said on an historic occasion? He said this: "The Hindus and Muhammadans are like the eyes of a fair maiden. If you hurt the one, you hurt the other, if you improve the one, you improve the other." That is the spirit in which we have to approach this question. Approach it in any other spirit, whether you are a Hindu or a Muhammadan, you are a traitor to your country. So, Sir, a Hindu who is not just to the Muhammadans is a traitor to his country, and a Muhammadan who is not just to the Hindus is equally a traitor to his country. I appreciate the spirit in which Maulvi Madassur Hussain addressed the House. It is necessary for the Hindus to be just to the Muhammadans, not only just but more than just to the Muhammadans, because of the great national cause. Through accident or other reasons we, the Hindus, started education before the Muhammadans; through accident or other reasons we occupied many important positions which the Muhammadans did not occupy. Therefore, it is up to us at the present moment to do more than justice

to the Muhammadans, and when in course of time, either because of their numerical strength or through other reasons, they occupy a better position than the Hindus, I do expect that they in their turn will not only be just but more than just to the Hindus. I trust all patriotic Moslems will consider themselves to be Indians first and Muhammadans afterwards, and similarly all patriotic Hindus will consider themselves to be Indians first and Hindus afterwards. I do not think that in this heated at mosphere I need at all go into the various other points of detail to which Mr. Syed Nasim Ali has referred, nor do I think it necessary because, to my mind, although he is technically within his rights in raising this point in the debate, it is not a point which he should have raised, because this motion was not intended for the purpose.

With regard to Professor Mukherji's points, I may say that I appreciate the point of view from which my esteemed friend, the learned Professor, has put forward this motion. His point of view is this: that the private colleges under circumstances of great difficulty are doing very important work. I appreciate, Sir, and readily admit that the private colleges are teaching a far larger number of students than the Government colleges do. But, Sir, appreciating and admitting all that, I beg to differ from him. If his advice be accepted, then the few bright spots in the educational firmament will be removed. I do not like to arrogate to the Government colleges any superiority over the private colleges, but I am sure my friend will agree with me if I say that the teachers in Government colleges at any rate do get living wages. Is it just or right for the teachers in the private colleges to deprive the teachers in the Government colleges of their living wages, and supposing as a result of that there be saving of Rs. 10 lakhs to 11 lakhs, do the teachers in private colleges get any benefit out of it? By no means. First of all the saving goes to the coffers of the whole Government. The other departments will come in for their share, and only a small portion of it is likely to come to the Education Department. If I had money available to-day, I would spend the major portion on primary education. But the question of improvement of private colleges is one which it is up to us to try and solve. The University Commission's report has described the condition of private institutions. I need not place before the House that description, lest I give offence to anyone belonging to the private colleges, although I do not mean any offence. But as I have already stated, I appreciate the good work which the teachers in private colleges are doing in spite of their difficulties. As soon as we get money, and as soon as more urgent educational needs are satisfied, it will be my endeavour to help these private colleges. Last year I did help some of these private colleges.

Then, Sir, there is another very important question, and that is this: that this, being one of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, is a matter which is under the consideration of the Government,

and as I have said in my opening speech, every word that has been said here will receive our best consideration, but I cannot announce the ultimate decision. I trust that after this assurance Professor Mukherji will withdraw his motion.

The motion of Professor S. C. Mukherji was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 8,000 under the head '31F.—Education—Transferred—Government Secondary Schools—Travelling Allowance' be reduced by Rs. 3,000."

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 11,38,000 under the head '31F.—Government Secondary Schools' be reduced by Rs. 4,00,000."

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: At this late hour I have no desire to inflict a long speech on this tired House. I move my amendment, because I wish to raise only one important issue. I move that the demand of Rs. 11,38,000 under the head "31F.—Government Secondary Schools" be reduced by Re. 1.

I am exceedingly sorry that I have been a bit misunderstood. The object of an amendment like this is not to introduce any drastic revolutionary measure in the educational machinery of Government. That is not the object of an amendment like this. The object of an amendment like this is simply to raise an important issue and then to leave that issue with the responsible authorities, that is, in a matter like this I feel it my duty to raise the question and then leave it with the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Education and the Director of Public Instruction. Sir, from the Quinquennial Report, which is in the press—which is not yet out and is only in proof—I find that there are 878 high schools in Bengal. Of these 878, only 40 are Government schools and in these 40 schools there are only 12,934 boys, whereas in the 878 schools there are 193,343 boys or roughly speaking, 2 lakhs. In other words, Government now is catering for less than 7 per cent. of the school-going population and the people of the country have taken up the responsibility for the education of more than 93 per cent. of the school-going population in Bengal. Therefore, I think that the time has come when the Government of Bengal must consider its educational policy as regards secondary education. Supposing these 40 schools disappear to-morrow, will it make any real difference to the cause of secondary education in Bengal? Supposing these 40 schools are deprovincialized, as has been recommended and rightly recommended by the Retrenchment Committee.

Here, I think, the Retrenchment Committee has enunciated a very sound policy, that the time has come when Government must give up its direct responsibility for secondary education in Bengal. The time has come when such a small number of schools must be handed over to the municipalities and district boards, and it is the duty of Government to make handsome grants to these privately managed schools. The municipalities and district boards have not sufficient funds to enable them to maintain these 40 schools. We are spending now on these 40 Government schools Rs. 8,63,560. I think a good deal of this money can be saved by the deprovincialization of these schools and the money can be utilized for helping private schools, or, if Government likes, Government can have special provision for Muhammadan boys.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please do not raise that again.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: I really do not intend to disturb the hornets' nest. I mean that Government can help minorities and backward classes.

DIRECTOR of PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (Mr. W. W. Hornell): Professor Mukherji has stated that Rs. 8,63,560 is spent on the 40 Government schools. That is the gross cost and against that must be set off Rs. 2,99,000 or 3 lakhs realized as fees, and that would reduce the cost to something like Rs. 5½ lakhs.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: I accept that, but that does not touch my question. I am asking whether the time has come or not when the Government of Bengal should restate its policy regarding secondary education and whether the time has come or not when these schools should be deprovincialized and made over to district boards and municipalities in order to relieve some money for those schools which are being carried on by private bodies. I do not wish to prolong the speech any longer. With the raising of that issue I leave the matter for the consideration of the Hon'ble the Minister.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: This Council is aware that at one of its first meetings it passed a resolution for forming a board for secondary studies. That resolution, I understand, the Minister is going to give effect to by putting in a Bill, and I believe Professor Mukherji knows it very well. Nobody is more anxious than myself that Government aided and unaided high schools should be wholly supported by Government. It is useless handing over Government schools to district boards and municipalities. They have not got sufficient means to run these schools. The secondary boards which Government will constitute will support the Government aided and unaided schools.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: I would like to invite the attention of Government to certain facts which really concern the education of our

Moslem boys in schools. Sir, it is known to everybody that our Muhammadan boys do not get sufficient facilities for Persian, Arabic or Urdu education in the secondary schools. In fact, there are only two or three maulvis in some of the schools who do not, or rather cannot, look to the interest of all the Muhammadan students. This is a fact which really concerns the Muhammadan community, because, Sir, you are well aware that these young Moslems will be the future Moslems of Bengal.

It is absolutely clear also that it is on account of the want of special facilities for reading Arabic, Persian and Urdu in the schools that these Muhammadan boys are unable to have proper religious training. Our Moslem graduates, M.A.'s, know everything about Hindu mythology and they are well up in every branch of the Hindu religion, but they do not know anything of their own Prophet or the followers of the Prophet. This is a very deplorable state of affairs. I do not for a moment suggest that the Muhammadans should not know the religious traditions of the Hindus—they ought to know them—but at the same time they must get facilities for knowing their own traditions. It cannot be gainsaid that the Muhammadans know more of Hindu traditions than they know of their own, and the cause of this is that they do not get sufficient facilities for taking Arabic, Persian or Urdu as their second language. They have got to take Sanskrit as their second language in private schools. (Cries of: No, no.) If anybody says that it is not so, I say that it is a fact and it cannot be gainsaid. There are absolutely no facilities for reading Arabic, Persian or Urdu. Sir, it is absolutely clear that this is the real position, and therefore it is high time that Government made adequate provision for this in the Government aided schools. I know Government cannot do this in unaided schools. So I confine myself to Government schools and aided schools, and I submit that a certain line of action should be followed which would induce the authorities of these schools to give facilities to Muhammadan boys for learning Arabic, Persian or Urdu, so that they may be aware of their own traditions.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I beg your leave, to say a few words in connection with this, only to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble the Minister certain facts. Sir, I find from inquiries that our Hindu boys do not find sufficient facilities for learning Sanskrit, because of the paucity of Hindu teachers. (Laughter.) I hope he will kindly look into the matter and appoint more Sanskrit teachers. It is well known that the majority of the students of zilla schools are Hindus, and it is also well known that only one or two pandits are appointed in these schools. This number is most inadequate. Therefore, I hope, the Hon'ble the Minister will give due consideration to this grave injustice that is done to the poor Hindus of Bengal. (Hear, hear, and renewed laughter.)

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: I oppose this amendment. As I said in the beginning when the Retrenchment

Committee's report was being discussed in this Council, that the Muhammadans came to the field of education rather late and they——

Mr. PRESIDENT: We cannot have another general discussion on that point.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: It has been suggested by the Retrenchment Committee that the management of the zilla schools should be made over to local bodies. Sir, when Mr. Biss published his report on primary education and promulgated certain schemes——

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: We are dealing with secondary education.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Khan Bahadur, I am afraid you have not quite grasped the subject-matter under discussion. We are dealing with secondary education, and Mr. Biss's report, which deals with primary education, has nothing to do with this.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: Unless I finish my sentence, how can I make my meaning clear? The suggestion is that these aided schools should be made over to the local bodies. Mr. Biss suggested in connection with primary education that these local bodies should prepare certain schemes, but none of the local bodies has up till now been able to comply with his suggestion. Therefore, it is not possible for the district boards, with their limited resources, to manage these secondary schools or the zilla schools. I admit that the district boards and municipalities have given all they can to manage these schools, but at the same time there is a serious objection. Even now sometimes we find local bodies showing a little predilection, or rather bias, towards high education at the sacrifice of primary education. If local bodies are made responsible both for high education and primary education, then there is the danger that secondary education will be advanced at the cost of primary education. Government has been managing secondary education and aiding secondary schools and these things are going on smoothly; but as soon as they are transferred to local bodies, primary education will be sacrificed, as the local bodies are more inclined towards secondary than towards primary education.

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 19,76,000 under the head '31.—Education—Secondary' be reduced by Re. 1."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: Some of the general criticisms I have already discussed. I may begin by saying that this matter comes within the decision of the Government, and therefore, in view of what has been stated by Government that the recommendations of the

Retrenchment Committee are being examined, we are not in a position accept the motion. But, Sir, I should like to place before the House certain facts. First of all in the general discussion, speaker after speaker expressed very strongly that these Government secondary schools should not be abolished. Then, Sir, there is another point to which I should like to draw the attention of the House. The average salary of a teacher in a secondary school in Bengal is only about Rs. 37 a month. That includes the salaries of comparatively highly paid teachers in Government schools, as also the comparatively higher salaries of the head-masters and assistant head-masters in private schools. If we exclude the salaries of teachers in Government schools and those of head-masters and assistant head-masters in private schools, the average salary of the assistant teachers in secondary schools will be about Rs. 25 a month. Under these conditions good work is impossible. But, Sir, the private schools have before them, as an example to work up to, the decent salaries in Government schools and the salaries in aided schools which are better than those in unaided schools. Then what should be our aim? Our aim should not be to demolish the model, our aim should not be to get rid of the ideal which all these private schools should hope to reach, but to improve the salaries of these private schools. The educational authorities, the University Commission's report, the District Administration Committee's report, and in fact all persons who had examined the question have drawn attention to the condition of secondary education in this province; and the condition of secondary education in this province cannot be improved by getting rid of the few schools where tolerable conditions exist. But, Sir, we are examining as to how economies can be affected, we are scrutinizing rigidly the budgets of every school and we are trying to effect economy. It may be possible to economize to the extent of Rs. 1 lakh without abolishing the schools; that is a very decent figure, but I repeat I cannot make any promise to-day. The whole question is under the consideration of Government.

Then, there is another aspect which the House has overlooked. A scheme like this will mean the abolition of a large number of posts, and these teachers will be suddenly thrown out of employment. Would the members like to take away the bread from the mouths of a fairly large number of teachers at a fortnight's notice. Now, Sir, there is another point which Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin Ahmed has referred, namely, the disinclination of the local bodies to take up secondary education, and in the few cases where the local bodies have agreed to take up secondary education, I am sorry, the results have not been satisfactory. There have been too much cliquism and party-spirit in the management of these educational institutions. Moreover, when the local bodies have not been able to manage primary education, it would be difficult for them to take up secondary education as well, even if Government were to give them larger aid.

I think, after my assurance that the question will be looked into and all the points that have been raised will be considered, Professor Mukherji will withdraw his motion.

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: I would like to say only one sentence. It is not the question of abolition, it is only the question of deprovincialization, and so long as that is kept in mind, I do not press my motion.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: May I ask one question? The Hon'ble the Minister said that he could surrender Rs. 1 lakh out of Rs. 5 lakhs. Does he mean to surrender it to the Government as a whole, or can he pay this Rs. 1 lakh to other schools? That is a point which I want to have cleared up.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: Perhaps Mr. Mallik was busy with other work when I spoke about this in my opening speech, and I am not going to repeat again what I said.

Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK: I do not get by heart other people's speeches.

The motion of Professor S. C. Mukherji was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till 3 P.M. on Friday, the 23rd March, 1923, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Friday, the 23rd March, 1923, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President in the Chair, the four Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council, the three Hon'ble Ministers, and 97 nominated and elected members.

Mr. PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. E. A. Cotton): I received a petition yesterday from certain members of this Council asking that His Excellency might be pleased to agree to the taking of a group photograph of the Council. I forwarded the petition to His Excellency and I have received his reply that he would be very pleased to accede to the request. He has fixed next Tuesday morning at Government House for the taking of the photograph. Members will be pleased to assemble there at quarter to ten in the morning.

Starred Question

(to which oral answer was given).

Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill.

***LXXVII. Maulvi RAFI UDDIN AHMED:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) aware that owing to a provision being made in the Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1922, that the bargadar is a tenant and will have a right in the lands, the zamindars, jotedars, and middle-class men are withdrawing their lands from the hands of the bargadars, specially in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the above course has been adopted by the people owing to the misunderstanding that their lands will pass out of their hands?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that this is the beginning of cultivation time in Bengal?

(*d*) Are the Government aware that by this withdrawal of lands from the bargadars many lands will remain uncultivated this year and great hardship will be caused to the people, including the landholders and the bargadars?

(*e*) Are the Government aware that there is a provision that no contracts will be valid after November, 1922, between landholders and bargadars, affecting the rights of the latter?

(*f*) Are the Government considering the desirability of removing the misunderstanding from the public mind by declaring that, until the Bill is passed into law, the simple publication thereof need not give rise to any apprehension on the part of the public?

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [LAND REVENUE] (Mr. M. C. McAlpin): (*a*), (*b*), (*c*), (*d*), (*e*) and (*f*) The Bill referred to in the question is a Bill prepared by the Committee appointed to consider the amendment of the Bengal Tenancy Act. It has not yet been considered by Government, who are awaiting opinions on it. It is not, therefore, a Government Bill, and Government cannot say at present what provisions of the Bill they will ultimately adopt.

The Budget for the year 1923-24.

Demands for Grants.

31.—EDUCATION (EXCLUDING EUROPEAN EDUCATION).

Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: I move that the demand for Rs. 40,000 for Circle School grant under the head "31G.—Education" be refused.

In moving the motion, I beg to draw the attention of the House that the duty of the Circle School pandits or gurus theoretically is to assist the sub-inspectors in their work of supervision and collection of returns; but practically they are incapable of doing anything of the kind on account of their low educational qualifications, as it will become very evident from the difference of education between a sub-inspector and a circle pandit. This system ought to be abolished. If it is to be maintained, the district boards or the local authorities who can best judge their work must pay for them. A large grant in the shape of encouragement is really beneficial, but a small grant for the same purpose is useless. That is why I urge the House to refuse this small amount we are asked to vote, which will benefit nobody. An expenditure which does no service to the country must be condemned, and that is why I ask for its total refusal.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter): This Council is aware that the question of abolition of primary schools and of inspecting staff comes within the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee. Therefore, it is a matter about which we are not in a position to announce our decision

to-day. I should like, however, to place before the Council certain facts relevant to this point. The policy of the department has been to abolish these schools gradually as opportunity offers. The difficulties are that certain pandits are in Government pensionable service and there are to-day 72 guru-pandits, and if we suddenly abolish their posts then these 72 men will be stranded. These schools cannot be made over to the district boards without a corresponding grant for their conduct and management. The position, therefore, is that we do not want to close down the schools, but we want to make them over to the district boards with necessary funds. In recent years we have abolished three or four schools on the retirement of certain pandits, where those have already declined in popularity and have ceased to serve any useful purpose. In these cases no expenditure is involved. The position is that, as we are already abolishing these schools, and as the matter falls within the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee, I hope the Rai Bahadur will withdraw his motion.

Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: I beg to withdraw.

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 18,00,000 for grants to local bodies for Primary Education under the head "31G.—Education—Primary" be reduced by Rs. 100.

My motion is intended merely to protest against the retrograde policy of the Education Department as far as primary education is concerned. The statement of the amounts allotted during the last two years will convince the House that we are going backwards instead of forwards as far as primary education is concerned. In the budget estimate of 1922-23, Rs. 20,00,000 was provided for this purpose. When the bugbear of the financial stringency faced the province, the allotment of Rs. 20,00,000 was, at once, reduced by Rs. 3 lakhs. I should have thought that the Hon'ble the Minister would have fought his hardest to keep this amount, but, unfortunately, he surrendered it. Then, when this new budget was prepared, we all expected that the amount allotted would come up to Rs. 20,00,000 at least, but we are unfortunate to find only Rs. 18,00,000 provided this year. I hope that the Hon'ble the Minister will be pleased to fight the Finance Department for this matter and increase this demand to Rs. 20,00,000 during the present year.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the demand of Rs. 23,31,000 under the head '31.—Education—Primary' be reduced by Rs. 1."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: In spite of the hard words used, I think the object of the hon'ble member is rather to help the department

than to hamper it, but what are the facts? In spite of great financial stringency I think we can say that every local body which came forward and which accepted my offer of help on a half-and-half basis has been provided with schools. The figures, perhaps, have not been fully quoted by my hon'ble friend, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta. If he would refer to the same page under the head "Direct grant to non-Government primary schools" he will find that the actuals of 1921-22 was Rs. 2,41,485, whereas the budget estimate for 1923-24 is Rs. 4,31,000—nearly 2 lakhs more. The figure of Rs. 18,00,000 which he has quoted comes lower down, but all the figures should be taken into consideration. During the year 1922-23 we have sanctioned a capital grant for Rs. 13,209 and recurring grant for Rs. 52,485, and we allowed seven municipalities and 26 union boards which applied for primary schools to have them. Over and above that, money was given to the district boards of Bogra and Rajshahi where some of the schools were destroyed by the flood, and they are going to have schools on the lines of Mr. Biss's scheme.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Do I understand that not a single application from a local body asking for a grant for primary school was refused by the Hon'ble the Minister?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: Not a single application of local bodies which complied with our conditions was refused.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I beg to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 1,88,000 under the head '31H.—Training Schools' be reduced by Rs. 1,25,000."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 600 under the head "31H.—Education—Transferred—Special—Guru-training Schools—Travelling Allowance" be reduced to Rs. 200, and that the demand of Rs. 8,600 under the head "31H.—Education—Transferred—Special—Guru-training Schools—Rents, rates, and taxes" be reduced to Rs. 6,200.

During the current year, the estimate under the head "31H.—Guru-training Schools—Travelling Allowance" was only Rs. 200 and it has now been increased to Rs. 600, i.e., 300 per cent. I understand that these guru-training schools are to be abolished in July next. Therefore, I suggest that this increase in the amount should not be allowed.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 4,10,000 under the head '31H.—Guru-training Schools' be refused."

Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: I move that the demand for Rs. 4,10,000 for Guru-training Schools under the head "31H.—Education" be reduced by Rs. 2,10,000.

I quite agree with the report of the Retrenchment Committee that unless the profession of the primary schools teachers is made more attractive a better class of people cannot be obtained to work as primary school teachers—is it not useless to spend money in training primary school teachers who are incapable of being trained? The question may be raised that we cannot abolish the system altogether. The dismissed hands will make an agitation. To answer this I may say that a rapid reduction can be effected without any fear of agitation. Among the items under the head "Guru-training Schools," two are noteworthy; the first being the charges for pandits and maulvis amounting to Rs. 1,44,264, and second being the charges for the stipends granted to pupils, amounting to Rs. 2,32,000. To gain our aim, we may safely refuse the stipends to pupils, that is a reduction to the amount, if not of Rs. 2,32,000 but of Rs 2,10,000 only, keeping some in hand as balance for immediate adjustment. If anybody wants training he may be asked to have it at his own expense. This will dismiss no hand; no man will lose his service and consequently no agitation will come to prevail. It may sound harsh that when the Education Minister is preparing schemes for compulsory primary education I am making a proposal for reduction in the grant for training teachers for primary schools. In defence of this, I beg to state that in all free countries, where the principle of compulsory primary education has been accepted, education is provided free in elementary primary schools maintained by local authorities aided by State grants. The block grant system which has been accepted in England might safely be introduced here for simplification and saving of clerical and administrative labour. Arguing on this principle, I may say that unless the local authorities come to us with comprehensive schemes, we cannot launch on an extensive scale for cumpulsory free elementary education. If this be true, then why will the Government alone take up the responsibility of training teachers for public elementary schools, to finish which it wil ltak eforty years at least, and consequently be a continuous drain on the public exchequer when there is no demand from the public for such work.

Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: I move that the demand of Rs. 4,10,000 for Guru-training Schools under the head "31H" be reduced by Rs. 25,000.

In moving my amendment I beg to submit that the guru-training schools are not so much important institutions now-a-days. Besides, the system in which the guru-training schools are going on at present is far from satisfactory. At the annual expenditure of nearly Rs. 4 lakhs, we are experiencing unsatisfactory results. I have seen some gurus

who have come out of the guru-training schools are not up to the standard. Besides that, in middle English schools and secondary schools normal passed pandits are prepared. In my subdivision there are two guru-training schools, but I think if one of them is abolished, and so on in other parts of the province, yet we shall get the requisite number of gurus. Therefore, I propose for half reduction. I should also like to impress that arrangements ought to be made for the better training of the gurus.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: This depends on the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, but if the Hon'ble the Minister has not yet been able to make up his mind as to this recommendation, I suggest that the reduction be made by half, so that he may have some time to make up his mind about the other half.

The following motion standing in the name of Mr. Ajoy Chunder Dutt was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 4,10,000 for Guru-training Schools under the head '31H.—Education' be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000."

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: I move that the demand of Rs. 4,10,000 under the head '31H.—Guru-training Schools' be reduced by Re. 1.

I anticipate the Hon'ble the Minister's reply: anything that has come within the purview of the Retrenchment Committee is going to be considered by the Hon'ble the Minister, and he is not therefore in a position either to make up his mind or to come to a decision at this stage. That is all very good. I have consulted the best authorities who are in a position to pass an authoritative judgment on this subject and they have told me that this thing is worse than useless, and I hope that the considered judgment of the department will be to abolish the thing and that it would not find a place in the next year's budget.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: I beg to oppose all the amendments recommending the abolition of the guru-training schools. I may inform the Council that, since the abolition of the middle vernacular and middle English scholarship examinations, the education imparted in these schools has greatly deteriorated. At present, there is a simple departmental examination, but none for scholarship, at which these gurus are allowed to sit. Therefore, the teachers who are taken from these schools after passing the vernacular are not well qualified to take up the teaching of boys. Moreover, recently a new system of teaching—the Kindergarten system—has been introduced in the mufassal pathsalas, and students coming out from those middle English or middle vernacular schools are not well-off for imparting education to the boys. So, these guru-training schools are useful institutions. I cannot agree with the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee that they are useless.

Professor Mukherji goes a step further and says they are worse than useless. I think he is not well acquainted with the conditions in the mufassal and the utility of the village pathsalas. Even the gurus who are to train the boys there ought to have some sort of education. These gurus at present are not duly qualified to impart education according to the modern system so they must be taught by qualified teachers who have passed either B.T. or L.T. examination. These gurus must receive some sort of education which will befit them to discharge the duties of gurus in pathsalas; the guru-training schools cannot be abolished *in toto.* Some guru-training schools locked up their doors some years ago, because a sufficient number of gurus were not forthcoming, but to pass one sentence against all is not proper, because these institutions are for imparting necessary education to the gurus.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi EMADUDDIN AHMED: I think the Chairmen of the District Boards should have some say in this matter. My friend, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin Ahmed, has said that these gurus are useful men and I agree with him. There is need of them. Mr. Biss has submitted a scheme for the reorganization of the guru-training schools, and I think it may be accepted and worked out. We find that in some districts, in their eagerness to supply a sufficient number of gurus more schools have been started than were needed. It would be better to have one school in a well-organized form where gurus can all be trained together; thus, we will get a better class of gurus. Are steps being taken in this direction? Professor Mukherji says that Government are giving due consideration to the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee and we must wait and see what they do. As far as I have been able to find out, steps have been taken to abolish at least one of the guru-training schools in my district. Government may do what they think proper, but when the matter comes up to this Council we will see what can be done.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: The education grant I find has received the particular attention of certain gentlemen, but I say that the grant is disproportionately small, very small indeed, having regard to the needs of the country. I, therefore, oppose every motion for the reduction of the grant, and I say that no gentleman should press for reduction. Hands off, I say at least, from the education grant.

As regards the guru-training schools it is not an easy matter to solve. Primary education is only possible if education is cheap and, therefore, cheap gurus, teaching in the old style in huts or under trees and not on the system of Mr. Biss advocates, are required. If we insist on a building costing Rs. 5,000 for a primary school or Rs. 40 a month for gurus, we shall never have universal primary education in this country. That being so, we must set up gurus of the old style—cheap gurus—but it

is necessary that they should have some training. In that view of the matter guru-training schools are indispensable. It is said that Rs. 4 lakhs for the training of gurus is a very large sum. I say Rs. 4 lakhs for the training of those gurus who are to train four crores of boys and girls is not much. It is a very inconsiderable amount. The question is why do we not spend 4 crores of rupees on primary education? If we do that we will find that Rs. 4 lakhs is a very inconsiderable amount. The time is sure to come when we shall have some courageous Minister and some Governor who will take his courage in both hands and spend money sufficient for the needs of education.

Rai Sahib PANCHANAN BARMA: I beg to oppose all these motions. Primary education is a necessity of the day, but it seems more attention is paid by Government to secondary education than to primary education, and the latter gets a very small grant. I say that primary education is an absolute necessity, and if it is to be conducted on proper lines there must be some trained gurus. For the training of these gurus some guru-training schools are necessary, but here we are told that these schools are worse than useless. I beg to submit that if they are so, they ought to be improved and not abolished. With these remarks I beg to oppose the motions.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: Dr. Haridhan Dutt's amendment really depends on the decision of the House on the main question, namely, the question of abolition of guru-training schools, but all these amendments from Nos. 699 to 707 depend in their turn on the decision of Government. If it is decided that the guru-training schools, or at least some of them, will be abolished, then Dr. Haridhan Dutt will gain his object and the travelling allowance will be proportionately reduced. On the other hand, if it be decided that the guru-training schools should not be abolished, then the grant for travelling allowance should stand. Therefore, I will deal with the main question, and as I have already indicated more than once, the matter is under the consideration of Government and they have not yet come to a decision. The motions for that reason alone should be withdrawn. It is not a question as to whether the Education Department has been able to come to a decision or not, but the question is whether Government have come to a decision. If the motions, however, are not withdrawn, then I submit that the House should unhesitatingly reject them pending Government action, and take the following facts into consideration. First, it will not be right to throw out of employment at a fortnight's notice more than 400 people; secondly, it will not be right to change the system suddenly and I will tell the House what the present system is. We have at the present moment 96 guru-training schools—21 of the improved type and 75 of the old type. The improved type schools provide for the education of 40 gurus under instruction in each. So that

we have 840 guru pupils in the 21 guru-training schools of the improved type and in the 75 old type schools we have a provision of the maximum number of 20 under instruction in each of these. We have provision of 1,500 gurus in the 75 old type schools and the total of both old and improved type schools, is 2,340. Now, the House will realize that we have about 47,000 primary schools with more than one lakh of gurus. The number of gurus to be trained is quite inadequate, even with the number of guru-training schools we have at the present moment. The Retrenchment Committee's recommendations may, perhaps, justify better guru-training schools and, as some of my friends have said, better salaries being given to gurus but their reasons do not justify the abolition of the schools altogether. (Hear, hear!)

We have already deputed an officer to go into the whole question, and those of my friends who come from the mufassal have already informed the House that the matter is being inquired into and, when the material is before us, then and then alone we can come to a decision. Now, as compared with the arrangements for training in other provinces for primary schools, our arrangements are much worse. That is a factor that we shall have to take into consideration when we deal finally with this matter and our arrangements are cheaper too. State aid for primary education in Bengal is at a much lower scale than that of other provinces. Some of the arguments which we have heard to-day are arguments which used to be put forward in Great Britain about 80 or 90 years ago, in the thirties, forties, and fifties of the last century. Well, the same reason is at the root and that reason is that we do not pay our gurus enough. If we do not pay our gurus enough, we do not attract that class of men to whom education, even in primary schools, should be entrusted. But if we do not pay our gurus enough, that is an additional reason why we should try to improve the material with which we have to carry on. When we are in a position to pay our gurus better, we may concentrate more attention on the improved type of guru-training schools, and it will certainly be cheaper for the province to have a system of improved type of guru-training schools with 40 guru pupils instead of 20. However, it is hardly necessary to enter into further reasons, but I do claim that the question of the future of primary education of this province and of the training of teachers for primary schools is a question of sufficient importance to justify three months' time for its consideration. As Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur has pointed out, if you cut to-day any portion of the budget grant, the result will be that the money will practically be out of the department's purse. That is an aspect which, I am sure, the Council will not overlook. I trust, Sir, that in view of the facts that I have placed before the Council, the movers will withdraw their amendments.

The motion standing in the name of Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Roy Bahadur was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The motions standing in the names of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur, Babu Surendra Narayan Sinha and Professor S. C. Mukherji were then put and lost.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 10,000 under the head "31H.—Education—Transferred—Special Engineering and Survey Schools—Temporary Establishment" be reduced by Rs. 3,000 and that the demand of Rs. 33,480 under the head "31H.—Education—Transferred—Special—Engineering and Survey Schools—Principals and other Teaching Staff" be reduced by Rs. 5,460.

Under the item of "pay of officers" for engineering and survey schools a proposal is made to increase the current year's estimate by Rs. 5,460—this increase cannot be due only to the natural increase in time-scale. In July, the Council is going to be asked to abolish all the outlying survey schools. Under these contingencies I have to propose to keep the demand to the current year's estimate by keeping down all establishment and other increments proposed to be met from this additional grant over that of the current year.

As regards my first motion, I have nothing more to add except this that in the current year's budget estimate Rs. 7,000 has been put down and in the next year's budget it has been increased to Rs. 10,000 without any appreciable cause.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I beg to oppose the amendment of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur. I do not know how he has found out that the Government has decided to abolish the survey schools in July next or whether he has got an assurance to that effect. However, I should like to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble the Minister that there is one provincial survey school in the whole of Bengal and that it is situated in Comilla. For reasons best known to the Retrenchment Committee, they have recommended the abolition of the school. I beg to express my most emphatic protest against this, because this school provides a large number of young men with a sort of vocational education which provides them with a means of easily earning their livelihood.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: My friend, Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur, is under a misapprehension. He has found that the budget estimate for 1922-23 provided for Rs. 28,020 and the budget estimate for 1923-24 provides for Rs. 33,480. If he had made some inquiry, he would have learnt that it is due to the reorganization of the Subordinate Educational Service. Surely, it is not the intention of my friend that when everyone in the Subordinate Educational Service has got an increase of salary, only the poor teachers of the Dacca Engineering School should not get the benefit of the reorganization.

Apart from this very cogent reason, there is a further reason. The Dacca Engineering School is the only place where sub-overseers can be

trained and the Dacca people are very keen and, in fact, the whole people of Bengal, are very keen on this kind of education.

As regards the next motion of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur, here, again, the mover has rushed into conclusions without any inquiry. It is perfectly true that the budget estimates for 1922-23 provided for Rs. 7,000 and the budget estimates for 1923-24 provide for Rs. 10,000. This is partly due to the reorganization and increase of salaries of mistris and menials who are under the head of temporary establishment. There is only one increase with regard to a teacher on a salary of Rs. 150 a month, and that was due to the fact that an additional section had to be opened. The Dacca Engineering School is so popular that if we could provide for more boys we could readily get many more. That is the reason for an increase of expenditure of Rs. 1,800 annually, and the balance is due to the revision of salaries of mistris and menials. When the mistris and menials serving all over Bengal in the Education Department have got an increase of salary, Dr. Dutt, I think, will not grudge a similar increase being given to the mistris and menials in the Dacca Engineering College. I hope he will withdraw the motions.

The motions were then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 12,660 under the head "31H.—Education—Transferred—Special—Zenana Classes—Governesses" be reduced by Rs. 2,660.

This amendment relates to a matter which was discussed at some length in the Council on the last occasion. It is in respect of what is commonly known in Western Bengal as house-to-house visitation. I have nothing further to add to what I said on the last occasion. I would only request the Hon'ble the Minister not to allow this movement to expand. I would, therefore, suggest that this demand be reduced to Rs. 1,000.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: I know Sir, that this is one of the hardy annuals of Dr. Dutt. If this grant be not passed, we will hardly get zenana education. The increase is due to the reorganization of salaries and that is all I have to say with regard to it.

The motion was then put and lost.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the direct grants of Rs. 25,000 to non-Government Special Schools for Sanskrit *tols* under the head "31H.—Education—Transferred—Special" be reduced by Rs. 100.

My motion is brought merely to protest against the most unsystematic attitude of the Government of Bengal towards the poor Hindus of Bengal. (Hear, hear!) He has provided Rs. 25,000 only for Sanskrit *tols*, whereas he has provided Rs. 1,75,000 for the Madrassas. It this fair? Are the Hindus always to go to the wall?

The time allotted for the Educational Grants being reached, the motion was put and lost.

The time allotted for the discussion of this head having been reached, the following motions were not considered:—

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 20,000 for non-recurring building grants under the head '31H.—Education—Transferred—Special' be reduced by Rs. 50."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 1,000 for furniture and equipment grants under the head '31H.—Education—Transferred—Special' be reduced by Rs. 50."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 5,000 for other non-recurring grants under the head '31H.—Education—Transferred—Special' be reduced by Rs. 50."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the demand of Rs. 12,06,000 under the head '31.—Education Special' be reduced by Re. 1."

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand of Rs. 80,000 under the head '31H.—Education—General Direction—Clerks' be reduced to Rs. 60,000."

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand of Rs. 5,200 under the head '31H.—General Direction—Servants' be reduced to Rs. 4,000."

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: "That the demand for travelling allowance under the head '31H.—Education—Direction' be reduced by Rs. 2,500."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur and Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 500 under the head '31I.—Education—Transferred—General Direction—Hill Allowance' be refused."

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: "That the demand for Rs. 1,19,000 on account of Director under the head '31I.—Education—Transferred—General' be reduced by Rs. 19,000."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 5,81,780 for District and Sub-Inspectors of Schools under the head '31I.—Education—Transferred—General' be reduced by Rs. 3,50,000."

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 5,81,780 on account of District and Sub-Inspectors under the head

'31I.—Education—Transferred—Inspection' be reduced to the extent of the pay of 21 additional officers."

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 5,96,720 for District and Sub-Inspectors and other inspecting Officers under the head '31I.—Education' be reduced by Rs. 20,000."

Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand for Rs. 1,90,000 under the head 'Inspector—(Transferred)—Travelling allowance' be reduced to Rs. 1,50,000."

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 1,90,000 for travelling allowance under the head '31I.—Education—Inspection' be reduced by Rs. 25,000."

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 11,09,000 under the head '31I.—Education—Inspection' be reduced by Rs. 6,00,000."

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: "That the demand for Rs. 11,09,000 on account of Inspection under the head '31I.—Education—Transferred—General' be reduced by Rs. 3,00,000."

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 11,09,000 under the head '31.—Education (excluding European Education)—Detailed Account No. 31I.—(Inspection)' be reduced by Rs. 2,81,780.

Mr. H. A. STARK: "That the demand of Rs. 11,400 under the head '31.—Education (Transferred)' included under Salaries in detailed account No. 31E.—Government's Arts Colleges and Bengal Engineering College, Sibpur,' and 31—I.—General—Inspectors'—and required for the payment of overseas allowances to officers who are natives of India be refused."

Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: "That the demand of Rs. 11,09,000 for inspection under the head '31H.—Education—Transferred—General' be reduced by Re. 1."

Professor S. C. MUKHERJI: "That the demand of Rs. 11,09,000 under the head '31I.—Inspection' be reduced by Re. I."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 5,000 under the head '31I.—Education—Transferred—General—Miscellaneous—Allowance to the Advisory Committee for Indian Students' be refused."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 49,000 for the Board of Secondary and Intermediate Education, Dacca, under the head '31I.—Education—Transferred—General' be refused."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTTA Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 49,000 under the the head '31I.—Education—Transferred—General—Miscellaneous—Board of Intermediate Education, Dacca,' be reduced to Rs. 9,000."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 2,40,000 for grants-in-aid, contributions, etc., under the head '31I.—Education—Transferred—General' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 20,04,000 under the head '31I.—Education (excluding European Education)' be reduced by Re. 1 from the provision for direction and inspection."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the demand of Rs. 2,41,080 for travelling allowances under the head '31.—Education—Transferred' be reduced by Rs. 60,295."

Babu NIRODE BEHARY MULLICK: "That the demand of Rs. 1,07,79,000 under the head '31.—Education—Transferred' be reduced by Rs. 5."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the demand of Rs 1,07,79,000 under the head '31.—Education—General' be reduced by Re. 1."

The original demand under the head "31.—Education (excludiag European Education)" was then put and agreed to.

32.—MEDICAL.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): I move that a sum of Rs. 46,06,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "32.—Medical."

The budget estimates for expenditure for 1923-24 are Rs. 50,000 less than the revised estimates, but they show an increase of Rs. 3½ lakhs over the actuals of 1921-22 due to the opening of the Burdwan Medical School, to the increased charges in connection with the mental hospitals, and to charges incidental to the Tropical School of Medicine. The budget estimates, as compared with the revised estimates, show a reduction in the provision for hospitals and dispensaries. We had to pay a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs to the Belgachia Hospital last year. This is a non-recurring grant and the reduction is largely accounted for in the way that I have mentioned. As compared with the revised estimates, the budget estimates also show a reduction in the grants for medical purposes. We had to pay Rs. 1,25,000 to the Calcutta Nursing

Institutions last year. This year we pay only Rs. 75,000. There has been an increase in the charges for medical schools and colleges owing to the fact that the Tropical School is now in full working order. There has also been an increase of over Rs. 2½ lakhs in connection with the maintenance of the lunatic asylums. With regard to the question of lunatic asylums, the Government of India have ruled that the expenditure upon European Lunatic Asylums is non-voted owing to the fact that the financial obligation which rests upon this Government is a statutory one. But, Sir, in this connection I desire to remove what I consider to be a misapprehension. With regard to the question of lunatic asylums, the total sum provided is Rs. 8 lakhs of which Rs. 2 lakhs represents the expenditure on the European Lunatic Asylum at Ranchi and the remaining Rs. 6 lakhs for the construction of a lunatic asylum for Indians. This building, it is hoped, will be completed in the course of this year, and when it is completed, it is expected that it will accommodate about 1,000 inmates. Then the Government believes that it will not be necessary to maintain the lunatic asylums at Dacca and Berhampur. Therefore, the effect of this capital expenditure will be a reduction of the recurring charges which we have to incur year after year. One matter of regret, I would like to say a matter of poignant regret, is that we have been obliged to reduce the grant of 1½ lakhs of rupees to Rs. 15,000 which was provided in the Budget in last August, and with the full concurrence of the Council. It is disappointing but it cannot be helped. We are the victims of circumstances, inexorable in their character, over which we have no sort of control. But I desire to say this that as soon as the finances improve, as soon as we are in a better position, this will be one of the first things to which it will be our duty to devote our attention. Sir, let me sound a note of satisfaction: We have been able to make provision for the Mymensingh Medical School which will be started next year. Sir, the provision that has been made amounts to about Rs. 61,000, largely contributed from private resources. It is only right and proper that I should mention that the Mymensingh school is very much indebted to the public-spirited efforts of my young friend, Mr. S. M. Bose, who has been taking a very prominent part since the initiation of the scheme—(hear, hear!)—and he has found a very worthy co-adjutor in the Civil Surgeon of Mymensingh. I think this fact may be noted. With these words, I beg to move that the demand be granted.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand for Rs. 600 as Hill Allowance under the head "32A.—Superintendence" be refused.

I have got so many amendments to the hill allowances that most of my friends here must find it already nauseating. (Hear, hear!) I, however, realise that, but I desire to have this opportunity of pointing

out how the matter stands. Formerly, they used to have a big lump sum in the budget for hill allowances, but it has now been scattered all over in small sums. That is how small sums escape our attention. That is one of my points. The other point is that I know how the small sums have been provided for the purpose of petty clerks whom I shall be the last person to deprive of these allowances. But, Sir, what I seriously ask my friends to tell us is why should there be any necessity for driving these clerks to the hill-tops and then giving them the allowances? If the generals be not required to go to the hill-tops, certainly the camp-followers need not go. As the generals cannot go without the camp-followers, we must attack the camp-followers first, and with that object in view, I have brought forward this motion. (Hear, hear!)

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRANATH BANERJEA: Dr. Dutt's logic is superb. He wants to attack the camp-followers and through them the generals. This is a sort of logic which does not commend itself to me. My hon'ble friend has said that his motion with regard to this matter is nauseating. I am afraid he is accustomed to a good deal of nauseating atmosphere as a practising physician, and he does not mind creating such an atmosphere here and repeating this motion year after year. But my answer is plain and simple. The Surgeon-General when not invited by Government goes to Darjeeling at his own expense, and he takes some of his clerks—whom my friend calls camp followers—to Darjeeling. Surely, the Surgeon-General without his clerks or his peons would be more or less useless. Therefore, in order to get some work out of the Surgeon-General, it is necessary that his camp-followers should be there. Is this not a cheaper thing after all? I hope my hon'ble friend will see his way to withdraw the motion.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following motion standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 1,25,400 under the head '32A.—Medical Establishment—Pay of Officers' be reduced by Rs. 25,000."

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (Mr. S. W. Goode): May I rise to a point of order I would suggest that the next amendment of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur be ruled out, as this item has nothing to do with the allowances of the Civil Surgeon of Dacca.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I rule the motion out of order.

The motion was as follows:—

That the demand for grant of Rs. 10,000 for house-rent and other allowances under the head '32A.—Medical Establishment (Transferred)' be reduced by Rs. 2,400, as budgeted for special allowance to the Civil Surgeon of Dacca, for the Dacca Lunatic Asylum and the Mitford Hospital."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand for grant of Rs. 10,000 for supply of medicines free to Government officers under the head "32A.—Medical Establishment (Transferred)" be refused.

It is a well-known fact, now widely known all over Bengal, that the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Medical Department has instituted from January last a system of payment by poor patients who come to the charitable dispensaries for their treatment. I would ask the Council to remember this side by side this item of grant of Rs. 10,000 to enable these charitable dispensaries to stock and supply medicines free to Government officers—high and low—and mostly of high rank—as the low paid officers will personally come to the outdoor for treatment as well and will be made to pay under this new system introduced—an anna for three doses. I believe this system was introduced when in mufassal there were less facilities for obtaining medicine—but there is no devolution rule—like rule 12—which compels this Council to provide for supplying medicines free to highly paid officials, and I am sure the Council will disallow this grant, now that I have pointed out what the people say about the difference in treatment meted out to the poor and to the men in the higher services of the Government. I hope the Council will adopt my amendment.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: My friend, Dr. Dutt, has referred to what he calls a contradiction on my part. He has told the Council that I have been a party to the imposition of a small fee upon patients attending our hospitals, and side by side we want to make a gift of medicines to Government servants. We are told that we impose a fee in the case of poor patients and we are charitable to Government servants. This is his interpretation of the Government action which he wants this Council to reject. I want to sound a personal note in this connection. In the first place, I was not the only person who was a party to the imposition of this fee; my friend was one of them. He was a member of the Standing Committee which sanctioned the fee and, therefore, he cannot divest himself of the responsibility and attribute it to me. I am broad-shouldered enough to bear the whole responsibility. But what I complain of is that my friend should insinuate that the full measure of this responsibility belongs to me and to me alone, and that he

stands taintless and holy as a saint. That is not so and that is the personal explanation which I desire to offer in this matter.

My friend is quite right when he says that it is an old standing order, as old as the year 1850; it was revised later on and district boards, I believe, at the present moment, get a small contribution from Government in order to give medicine free to Government servants. But, Sir, what I desire to point out is that Government servants, in the case of dispensaries where a small fee is levied, stand on the same footing with the general public, and they have to pay the same fee. Therefore, Government servants do not in these cases derive any special advantage as my friend imagines. In the second place, to accept the motion would be to withdraw a privilege which Government servants enjoy in some cases and also deprive district boards of a small contribution which they receive now. Having regard to these circumstances, I hope that the House will not accept my friend's motion. It would be better if my friend could see his way to withdraw it.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following motions were, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: "That the demand under the head '32A.—Medical Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 60,000."

Babu RISHINDRA NATH SARKAR: "That the demand of Rs. 12,95,600 under the head '32B.—Presidency Hospitals and Dispensaries' be reduced by Re. 1."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand for Rs. 9,000 under the head "32B.—Transferred—Mufassal Hospitals and Dispensaries—House Rent and other Allowances" be reduced by Rs. 4,000.

This item has been on the increase though the provincial fund has spent money in constructing quarters and houses. The actual for 1921-22 was the sum of Rs. 4,401, the revised estimate for the current year is Rs. 7,000, and that for 1919-20 was Rs. 2,672. Now that the stringency has compelled the Hon'ble the Minister to levy charges for supplying medicines to the poor, the department surely cannot afford to be extra liberal with allowances, so as to exceed the amount sanctioned for the current year. I request the Council to reduce the grant nearer to the actual for 1921-22 and reduce it by Rs. 4,000.

Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand of Rs. 19,66,000 under the head "32B.—Hospitals and Dispensaries" be reduced by Re. 1.

If we look to the figures in the financial budget we will find that the whole of this amount is going to be spent in two centres only—Calcutta and Dacca—and all the other places of Bengal are being left out. In the budget there is a provision of Rs. 72,660 for Assistant Surgeons. Some of these are employed in municipal dispensaries and other dispensaries, but nearly the whole of this amount is realized from the district boards and from the municipalities. Thus, the sum of Rs. 3,360 annually is provided in the budget for giving medical relief in areas outside Calcutta and Dacca. It is a known fact—if I may be permitted to quote the words of the Hon'ble the Minister—uttered in this House, that in the mufassal people are generally dying like rats and flies. We have often heard expressions of sympathy for the sufferings of the people in the mufassal. I am afraid that the warmth of that sympathy generally cools down before it reaches Northern Bengal and cools down, perhaps, to freezing point when it reaches the foot of the Himalayas. If the local bodies, the municipalities, and the district boards are asked to look after medical relief of the people entrusted to their care, the medical relief of Calcutta and Dacca should also be looked after by the Calcutta Corporation and the municipality of Dacca. I only press for equal treatment for everybody.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: With reference to the observations which have fallen from Babu Tankanath Chaudhuri as regards the discrepancy between medical grants in respect of Calcutta and the mufassal, I must say that there is a substratum of truth in what he says, but there is this fact to be borne in mind that this has been left to us as a thing which has come down from the past. We cannot make a violent and revolutionary change; things have to be looked into carefully, and it takes time to make the necessary adjustments.

As regards the particular item to which exception has been taken by Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur, I desire to point out these are allowances which have for years been paid to subordinate members of the medical staff, diet for nurses, house rent for sub-assistant surgeons, etc. Why should my friend, Dr. Dutt, take such a fancy for cutting down allowance and pay of peons, clerks, and of the subordinate establishment? I think it should have been his aim to strike higher in order to secure a substantial retrenchment. Under these circumstances and having regard to the fact that those whom the motion will affect are poor people and that these allowances have been paid for a long time, I trust he will withdraw his motion.

The motion of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur was then put and lost.

The motion of Babu Tankanath Chaudhuri was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand for Rs. 1,19,000 under the head "32C—Grants for Medical purposes" be reduced by Rs. 6,000.

Under this item all the different doles granted by Government to various societies ostensibly organized for charitable and principally for medical relief are lumped together, such as the Social Service League, the Calcutta University Student Welfare Committee, and various nursing associations, including that of Lady Canning's Home for Training Nurses. I want your permission to put in a few words about the Welfare Committee first of all. There is, so far as I can judge, an official section of the Calcutta University styled and named "Health Examination Section" under the Post-Graduate Department. The Syndicate of the Calcutta University on the 23rd July, 1921, formed this section and sanctioned expenses. Since July, 1921, the Syndicate further sanctioned the office staff which is working at present for this section. The University is also spending money to enable the section to go in for what is known as a "Rowing Club Section." The voluminous mass of material collected by the paid members of this section is said to be of great scientific value from the sociological and anthropological standpoints. I am quoting from the language of the report itself. This report is printed in highly glazed paper with nice charts and fine sketches in elaborate carves by the University. Of course, the work of this section which is under a professor, who holds the Chair of Experimental Psychology, is confined among the college students who reside in recognized hostels. Each of these hostels has a paid medical attendant to look after the ordinary and extraordinary health or disease of the boys, and I understand that there is a system of fees levied on students who reside in them. But the Calcutta University health section with the paid assistants mostly B.A.'s and B.Sc.'s at Rs. 50 per month are collecting elaborate statistics of cephalic indices and publishing them at the expense of the University. I have no doubt that the mass of material that has been collected will go to supply enough materials for valuable theses for the degree of Ph.D., which has rather been liberally given away to many persons of late years. Any help, therefore, to this section of the University should come out of the grant given to the Post-Graduate Department and not under medical relief.

Mr. S. W. GOODE: Sir, may I rise to a point of order? May I inquire what reference or connection Dr. Dutt's remarks have to the item under discussion? So far as I know, they are entirely irrelevant.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I was on the point of asking him this. It seems to me, Dr. Dutt, that you are talking on item No. 751 instead of 749. Have you got your speeches mixed up?

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I was speaking on grants for medical purposes.

Mr. PRESIDENT: How is this particular matter relevant?

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: So many items are included in this item of Rs. 1,19,000, I do not know whether it includes this also.

Mr. S. W. COODE: I can assure Dr. Dutt that the subject to which he has referred does not form part of this branch.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: If that be so I ask leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI: I do not understand what items are covered by this grant, so I put in this motion.

Mr. S. W. COODE: I might refer the hon'ble member to page 134 of this budget; he will find the items at the foot of that page.

Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI: In that case I shall withdraw my motion.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 1,19,000 under the head '32C.—Medical—Grants for medical purposes' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 12,000 for house-rent and other allowances under the head '32D.—Medical College' be reduced by Rs. 2,000."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 10,000 as allowances, etc., under the head "32D.—Medical—Schools and Colleges—School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Institute" be reduced to Rs. 500.

I have already alluded to the granting of unjustifiable sums under the name of "allowances" to medical officers for doing their current duties. With your permission I want to refer to what has been quoted by my friend, Dr. J. N. Moitra, the member for Faridpur, namely, the long list of these perquisites during the general discussion of the budget. I may further inform the Council that the actual of these allowances for this institute was only Rs. 755 in 1921-22, and Rs. 284 for the half-year of 1920-21——

Mr. S. W. COODE: May I rise to a point of order, Sir? Dr. Dutt is again on a wrong trail. These allowances are not granted to Indian Medical Service officers in the School of Tropical Medicine. These are travelling allowances granted to Assistant Professors and Assistant Surgeons for joining their appointments at the headquarters.

Mr. PRESIDENT: These allowances are not drawn by members of the Indian Medical Service, Dr. Dutt. They are drawn by Assistant Professors and Assistant Surgeons.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: What difference does it make so far as the point of order is concerned?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Dr. Dutt, you have been discussing the Indian Medical Service which is a non-voted item.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I do not remember to have alluded to the Indian Medical Service, Sir.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I oppose the motion on the same ground that I urged on a former occasion. These allowances have been drawn for a long time by the class of medical officers known as Assistant Professors and Assistant Surgeons and I do not know what case has been made out for refusing them now.

The motion was then put and lost.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 12,000 as house-rent and other allowances under the head "32D.—Other Medical Schools" be reduced by Rs. 4,880.

I know, Sir, that I shall be told that if this motion is carried, it would deprive poor men of these allowances, but I have good reasons to reduce this sum and I am not yet convinced that I am taking a wrong course.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: Nor is the Government convinced of the justice of the demand of Dr. Haridhan Dutt. Sir, I oppose it.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following motion was ruled out of order as it referred to non-voted items:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ and Babu SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI: "That the demand for Rs. 2,700 under the head '32E.—Lunatic Asylum—Travelling Allowance' be reduced by Rs. 1,500."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 6,04,000 for the "Indian Mental Hospital at Ranchi and other Indian Lunatic Asylums" be reduced by Rs. 4,34,000.

I raised my feeble voice last August against a very modest sum first introduced as travelling allowances for the Trustees of the Ranchi Lunatic Asylum to go to Ranchi for the meeting of the Board. Now we are faced with an enormous sum to construct a lunatic asylum at Ranchi. Why this extra-provincial obligation should be paid for or tolerated, I

fail to see sufficient reason. The Medical Science has not discovered the presence of any curative germs in the air of Ranchi to benefit lunatics residing there. On the contrary, we remember how Sir Andrew Fraser wanted to translate the seat of the Bengal Government from Calcutta to Ranchi, and when he failed he wanted to take away the Presidency College with the Engineering College to Ranchi. These are matters of history and I need not dilate on these facts. The last attempt was the Act to provide for the incorporation of Trustees for the European Hospital for Mental diseases at Ranchi, which, in plain words, means the Lunatic Asylum. Bengal has already sent most of its European lunatics to Ranchi. But we cannot discuss about European Lunatic Asylum—it is a non-voted item.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That is so: you cannot do that. You must confine yourself to the Indian Mental Hospital at Ranchi and other Indian lunatic asylums, as the form of your motion goes.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I have no objection to paying from the provincial fund for their upkeep until such time as we can arrange to put them up at Darjeeling, Kurseong, or Kalimpong, but I most strongly oppose the proposal to build any of these asylums beyond our territorial boundaries. We have already three lunatic asylums in the province—one at Berhampore, one at Dacca, and one at Bhowanipur. There is a splendid building recently erected at Kanchrapara which is lying vacant for want of inmates. We are quite competent to house in these four places all our lunatics, and if there be any apprehension of the epidemic of lunacy, we should soon begin to build more lunatic asylums at cool places, and thereby be able to bring all our European lunatics whom we have sent out of our province. This Council was bold enough to disallow the building that was half-finished, meant for the Chief Justice of Bengal, and I hope the same Council will not hesitate to veto the proposal for constructing an extra-territorial asylum for our lunatics. We have decided to have a juvenile jail for our own young offenders and have discontinued any further contribution to the Hazaribagh Reformatory. Under the same principle we must dissociate ourselves from any extra-territorial institute at Ranchi. The sum that I have asked the Council to refuse is a large sum, and I hope the proposal will receive the serious consideration which it deserves.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I beg to move my motion in the following amended form:—

"That the demand of Rs. 6,04,000 for the 'Indian Mental Hospital at Ranchi and other Indian Lunatic Asylums' be reduced by Rs. 6,00,000."

My objection to the proposal is three-fold. In the first place, I object to it on financial grounds. The sum of Rs. 6,70,000 is going to be spent this year for the Ranchi Lunatic Asylum, and in the ensuing year—a

year of extreme financial stringency—it is proposed to spend another Rs. 8 lakhs for the same purpose. We are not entitled to question the grant proposed to be made to the European Mental Hospital, but I cannot help regarding the expenditure for the Indian Lunatic Asylum as extravagant. In the second place, I do not see what necessity there is for erecting a new asylum at Ranchi when there are already three such asylums in the province. Has there been an increase of lunacy in recent years? If so, have the causes been investigated? Thirdly, I object to the erection of an asylum outside the borders of Bengal, with funds supplied by us, on the ground that we shall not have sufficient control over the financial and general management of this institution. This is not the time when we can afford to indulge in extravagant expenditure, and I, therefore, ask the Council to reduce the grant.

[At this stage the Hon'ble the President left the Chair which was taken by Mr. Deputy-President.]

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Fanindralal De Bahadur was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 6,04,000 for the 'Indian Mental Hospital at Ranchi and other Indian Lunatic Asylums' be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000."

Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI: In a year of financial stringency it is inadvisable on the part of Government to spend such a large sum of money for the treatment of only a few thousand men, when this amount, if distributed over the whole of Bengal, would go a very great way towards relieving distress in the mufassal. When money could not be found for that purpose, it would be inadvisable on the part of Government to spend so much money at Ranchi. May I take it that in the Lunatic Asylum at Ranchi the powers that be would try to find a safe lodging for political lunatics also. If that is so, it should be clearly stated before the House. My objection is mainly on the ground of financial stringency, and I reiterate my objection that this money should not be spent in such a year.

Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: I beg to support the amendment of my friend, Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea. We have been paying a sum of Rs. 8 lakhs every year since the inauguration of the Reforms, that is to say, we have already spent Rs. 16 lakhs for the Ranchi Lunatic Asylum and have been again asked to provide another Rs. 8 lakhs for the same institution. Last year the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department told us that in deference to a particular pledge this money was to be spent. I do not know what the terms of this particular pledge are and when the pledge will come to an end. The Hon'ble the Minister also said that the Bihar Government and the Government of the Central

Provinces were also under obligations to defray the expenses of this particular asylum. That means that in addition to this Rs. 16 lakhs we have already paid, an equal amount has been contributed by the Government of Bihar and the Government of the Central Provinces——

Mr. DEPUTY-PRESIDENT (Babu Surendra Nath Ray): We are not discussing the question of any payment to the European Lunatic Asylum. That is a non-voted item.

Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: This year we have come to learn that the sum of Rs. 8 lakhs provided is to some extent voted and to some extent non-voted. I am at a loss to understand how this particular item of expenditure is described as voted and non-voted——

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I rise to a point of order. These are the orders of the Government of India. I do not think my friend can discuss them.

Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: I have some definite questions to ask our Hon'ble the Minister about this Lunatic Asylum, and I hope he will calmly give a decided answer to these particular questions. The first question is: What is the pledge about the Bengal Government's contribution to the Ranchi Lunatic Asylum? I want to know the exact terms of the pledge. Secondly, what amount of money has been contributed by the Bihar Government and the Government of the Central Provinces up to the current year. Thirdly, what is the total number of patients in the Asylum, and out of this number, how many have gone from Bengal——

Mr. S. W. COODE: On a point of order, Sir, I submit that all these questions are not relevant. Apparently Dr. Moitra is still referring to the European Mental Hospital, since the Indian Hospital is not yet finished, and the dispensary has not yet been opened.

Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: Well, these are answers to my questions, and I am satisfied to some extent. May I ask how many patients will go from Bengal when the dispensary is open? How many medical men are going to be appointed, and of these how many are going from Bengal? These are questions we must learn before we are prepared to vote for this large amount. We know, Sir, that we are crying for several such useful institutions in Bengal, and one of these is a radiological institute, and we know that the only institute of the kind that we have is at Ranchi. Our Hon'ble the Minister was kind enough to admit last year that there is actually some need for such an institution in Bengal. If there is any radium treatment to be undertaken, it should be started in Bengal.

[At this stage the Hon'ble the President returned to the Chair.]

Now, Sir, arguing on the same lines why Ranchi has been selected in particular and why is Bengal bound down hand and foot to defray the expenses of the Ranchi Lunatic Asylum? Now, Sir, it is well known that there is a strong anti-Bengali feeling existing in Bihar——

Mr. S. W. GOODE: May I submit, Sir, that it is we who have urged the Bihar Government to allow us to establish an asylum for lunatics at Ranchi and they have shown us favour by allowing our lunatics to get the benefit of the bracing climate of Ranchi.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That is not a point of order, Mr. Goode. It is a reply.

Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: There is an anti-Bengali feeling in Bihar and I do not like to contribute to any institution which is located outside the province of Bengal.

Arguing on the same lines I would personally like to see our asylums in Bengal better managed than they are at present. The asylums at Berhampore and Dacca and in other places are useful institutions and should be improved by all means, and I do not understand what necessity there has been of establishing a lunatic asylum at a far-off place where the majority of poor lunatics cannot go. These are questions which I would like the Hon'ble the Minister to answer and particularly about the pledge which has been given to Bihar, so that we may know our position and vote accordingly.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: It is with very great regret that I support the amendment proposed. I do not desire that one pice out of the grant for the public health department should be cut down, and I do not think that any item here in the grant is not required. But the question is not that. The question is: What things should be given preference to? The Nawab of Oudh entertained singers and dancers while the poor people starved. His Excellency the Governor and our Minister and Mr. Goode have repeatedly said that the first demand upon the public health grant is to provide medical help to the millions of this country. Government did allot Rs. 1,50,000 for the purpose, but on account of financial stringency they have struck it out in this budget. Now, I want to know what right they have to strike out the very first and indispensable need of the country and indulge in building lunatic asylums. I do not desire that the money should be taken away from the public health department, but Government should redeem its pledge as regards providing people with medical help, starting dispensaries and excavating tanks for the supply of good drinking water in this country.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Sir, in addition to the pertinent questions asked by my friend, Dr. Moitra, may I ask another question of the Hon'ble the Minister? It is this: Will the Hon'ble the Minister be

pleased to let us know whether the existing lunatic asylums in Bengal have not got sufficient space to accommodate the Indian lunatics of Bengal? Sir, I should also like to know whether it is a part of the policy of this Government to take revenge on the inhospitable Bihar Government by letting loose the Bengali lunatics on the soil of Bihar.

SURGEON-GENERAL with the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL (Major-General B. H. Deare): Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea has spoken of our having three asylums in Bengal. I may point out to him first that we have only two asylums—one at Berhampore and one at Dacca—and a small Observation Ward at Bhowanipore. For many years past it had been found—and I speak from what I know because I was Superintendent of the Asylum at Berhampore when it was founded many years ago—that the climatic conditions of Dacca and Berhampore are not the best conditions in which we can place our unfortunate lunatics. The buildings and the asylum at Berhampore are not suitable for modern treatment, and it was, therefore, decided that we should try to keep these unfortunate people, many of whom are physically very weak, in a healthier climate.

My hon'ble friend, Dr. Dutt, suggested that we might establish these asylums at Darjeeling or Kurseong or even at Kalimpong. Sir, I do not know whether Dr. Dutt knows the condition of rainfall in those places. Those places are not the best suited for our lunatics, and if they are to live in these places the death-rate among our lunatics would be something appalling. About the year 1915 an inquiry was started and the Committee inquired into all the various sites which could be available. The conclusion that was come to was that a plateau 2,000 feet above the sea level would be the most suitable and Ranchi was accordingly chosen. It is best suited from the health point of view of lunatics. It is an open country with a salubrious climate and it is considered the best place for these unfortunate people. The work of buildings for the Indian lunatics has been commenced and when finished they will be able to accommodate at least one thousand of our unfortunate lunatics from Bengal.

The grant this year is a heavy one because the capital work is now going on, but when these buildings for the Indian lunatic asylum are completed—and they will be completed at the end of this year—then we, as a province, shall have the privilege of taking our lunatics—one thousand of them—and placing them in the very best climatic condition in our neighbouring province of Bihar; when this is accomplished I would like the Council to understand that we shall at once be able to close down our asylums at Dacca and at Berhampore which are very unhealthy places, and we shall make a saving of Rs. 2 lakhs a year or more which will cover the cost of maintaining our lunatics at Ranchi. I think, Sir, that is a sufficient answer to the questions that have been raised.

One other point and I have done. I can assure the Council on behalf of Government that when this Indian asylum is finished, as it will be

at the end of this year, Dr. Banerjea need have no fear that it will be extravagantly run because Government will at once appoint a strong Board of Indian Trustees to keep down expenditure and to correct any teudency to extravagance and I trust that after what I have said my hon'ble friends will withdraw their motions.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I would just like to add one word more to what has fallen from the Surgeon-General. It will be seen that the decision as regards Ranchi being the best place for a lunatic asylum had been considered long before the Reforms came into force, and when I came into office I found that the construction of the building had been taken in hand. Consequently, it was the bounden duty of this Government to carry on the work which remained unfinished. The decision as regards Ranchi was arrived at by medical experts after most careful examination. After the statement of the Surgeon-General that both Dacca and Berhampore are unsuitable places for a lunatic asylum, I am surprised that medical men sitting round this table should call in question the action of Government in this matter. Looking at it from the financial point of view it will be seen that there is going to be a saving of about Rs. 2 lakhs a year and the capital expenditure will not be wasted. Having regard to all these circumstances I hope my hon'ble friends will not press their motions and if they do the Council will not accept them.

Dr. JATINDRA NATH MOITRA: What about the pledge? The Hon'ble the Minister said last year in this connection the Bengal Government is under a certain obligation. What are the terms of that pledge?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I cannot answer a question of that nature off-hand without notice being given.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Dr. Moitra, you must give notice of that question.

The motion standing in the name of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea was then put and a division taken, with the following result:—

AYES.

Ali, Munshi Amir.
Banerjea, Dr. Pramathanath.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Babu Tarakanath.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizar Rahman.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Haridhan.
Dutta, Babu Ananda Charan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Ghosh, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Mukharji, Babu Satish Chandra.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Roy, Babu Nalini Nath.

NOES.

Afzal, Nawabzada K. M., Khan Bahadur.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Ahmed, Mr. M.
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Banerjee, Rai Bahadur Abinas Chandra.
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.
Birley, Mr. L.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Choudhury, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Rahmatjan.
Chowdhury, Maulvi Fazlal Karim.
Das, Babu Shishmadev.
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.
De, Mr. K. C.
De, Rai Bahadur Fanindralal.
Deare, Major-General B. H.
Danald, the Hon'ble Mr. J.
Donovan, Mr. J. T.
Dess, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Emerson, Mr. T.
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
Ghose, Mr. D. C.
Geede, Mr. S. W.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
Huntingford, Mr. G. T.
Hussain, Maulvi Mahammed Madassur.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the.
Marr, Mr. A.
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukerjee, Mr. S. C.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhone.
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary.
Philip, Mr. J. Y.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal.
Robertson, Mr. F. W.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Roy, Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh.
Roy, Mr. G. N.
Roy, Mr. J. N.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Manilell Singh.
Rose, Mr. C. F.
Sarkar, Babu Jogesh Chandra.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.
Skinner, Mr. H. E.
Stephensen, the Hon'ble Mr. H. L.
Stuart-Williams, Mr. S. C.
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan.
Villiers, Mr. F. E. E.

The Ayes being 19 and the Noes 58, the motion was lost.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 46,06,000 under the head "32.—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 1,93,000.

My motion is intended, first for a discussion of the policy under which this grant is demanded; and secondly, to suggest some retrenchment in the cost of establishment in this department. Although, Sir, under this beautiful system of dyarchy, we are not allowed to go into the details of non-voted grants, we are permitted to generally discuss the policy which may involve the Imperial Service. I find to my great disappointment that in this department—in this transferred department, of all departments—the increase of non-voted grants during this year has been nearly a lakh of rupees. This only means that between the revised estimate of last year and the estimate of this year there has been a very large provision made for the Imperial Medical Service.

[At this stage the Hon'ble the President left the Chamber and Mr. Deputy-President took the Chair.]

Sir, although we have no right to touch the pay of these officers, we can certainly suggest to the Hon'ble the Minister that the various allowances that are given to these officers is proving ruinous to the country.

It happens sometimes that the amount of allowances exceeds the amount of pay given to these officers. This sytsem, to say the least of it, is more than extravagant—it is deplorable. During the last 30 years allopathic medical education has taken a firm root in the province, and there is no lack of Indian officers who are as much qualified as Indian Medical Service officers imported at such a heavy cost from outside. Therefore, in this department, at any rate, we should have expected the Hon'ble the Minister to give effect to the policy of Indianization, which is at the root of the Reforms scheme.

Sir, I am not a member of the Medical Standing Committee, so I do not share the responsibility of its members imposing, what has been truly called, a tax on the poor patients of Calcutta. In answer to a question, the other day, the Hon'ble the Minister was pleased to say that the figures given for January, 1923, did not show that there had been any falling off in the number of patients in these hospitals, in spite of the taxation that has been introduced. Sir, when people are sick they have got to take medicine, whether that medicine is taxed or not. I have looked into the new rules. I have personally discussed this matter with medical men, who have experience of hospitals, and I think it is no exaggeration to say that this system is bound to open the door to corruption. When subordinate officers are given abundant powers to decide between paying and non-paying patients, the temptation to corruption becomes very great. If for no other reason, at least for the prevention of this temptation to corruption, I would request the Hon'ble the Minister to see that this taxation is withdrawn as soon as possible.

In my budget speech I mentioned that Dr. D. N. Moitra, President of the Social Service League, while delivering his lectures at Madras, quoted in detail facts and figures to show that Madras hospitals were being run on a much cheaper line than the hospitals in Calcutta, and that the proportion of deaths in those hospitals was also much less than the proportion of deaths in the Calcutta hospitals. Sir, I have been told by many people, whom I cannot disbelieve, that there is room for corruption in the Calcutta Medical College and Hospital. I am sorry to find that Mr. Donovan is not here or he would have supported me. He, as Registrar of Co-operative Societies, had some experience of it in introducing a milk co-operative society willing to supply milk to the Medical College Hospital. In connection with that, he and I found a sad state of affairs in connection with the supply of milk to the patients in the hospital. Sir, I understand that the management of such a vast institution, as the Calcutta Medical College, is in the hands of an officer, who is allowed to practise. Is it possible that an officer, who has to earn a part of his living by practising, is able to devote his full energy and time to the management of such a big hospital as the Calcutta Medical College Hospital? I think it will be conceded that such a big hospital cannot be managed by a part-time officer, however able and honest he may be. In

the interest of perfect efficiency and economy, it is desirable that a whole-time officer should be placed in charge of the college and of the college hospital. I feel sure that if this is done, the deficit of Rs. 1 lakh may be wiped out by more strict supervision and economy, and there may not be any necessity for raising the money by taxing the poor patients.

In this Council, the Hon'ble the Minister has been pleased to declare his policy that he is for the development of medical education in this province. I am grateful to him for the promise that he has given for the establishment of a medical school in my division of Chittagong, but I must confess to my great regret that the interest of medical education seems to be combined with his political views. I hope the Hon'ble the Minister will pardon me if I mention a particular case in this connection. A new medical college—a national medical institution—has been established here for the last year and a half. My hon'ble friend, Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy (who, I may mention, does not belong to my school of politics), visited that institution and declared that the institution was being managed on the best lines and by the best talents of the country.

In spite of that, will it not be a matter of surprise to the members of the Council to hear that the Hon'ble the Minister has not yet been pleased to grant them the right of dissecting dead bodies? The Maniktola municipality has given them permission to dissect bodies. They formally applied more than two or three times, and they expressed their willingness to get themselves affiliated to the Medical Board but yet that privilege has been denied to them. What is the result? There are more than 500 students in that institution and they are going to be deprived of the first elements of medical instruction. The only fault of that institution seems to be that it was established by non-co-operators. As an instance, I will say that the National Medical College under Dr. S. K. Mullick has been given this privilege, and, if I am not mistaken, that college is not much better equipped than this medical institution which I had the honour to visit a few days ago. It may be said that all the equipments of this institution are not perfect. I quite admit that, but does not the Hon'ble the Minister know that the Belgachia Medical College, which has only recently been raised to the standard of a good medical college, was established 30 years ago, and it got permission to dissect dead bodies when its equipments were not better than those of the National Medical Institution? I entreat the Hon'ble the Minister to look at these things with a broader view and not be guided by the political aspects of the case. This institution, I can safely say, will do an immense good to the country and will supply a large number of medical men, who are particularly wanted at the present moment. Sir, the question of the paucity of good dispensaries has been mentioned by another friend in this Council. I should also like to bring this matter to the notice of the Hon'ble the Minister. If he will give attention to

the rapid Indianization of the services, I am sure he will be able to save sufficient funds for the supply of better hospitals and dispensaries.

With these words I beg to move the motion standing in my name.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand for Rs. 46,06,000 under the head "32.—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 1,10,000.

Before I come to deal with the specific items of reduction covered by my proposal, I should like to deal briefly with the policy underlying medical expenditure in this province.

It will be seen on analyzing the different items of expenditure under the head "Medical" that a large increase of expenditure under this head is due, not so much to larger provision for medical aid or hospitals and dispensaries, but, to certain other factors, which are the outcome of a policy which denies the very right to call the tune to those who pay for the piper. Thus, it will be seen, Sir, that a large increase of expenditure to the tune of about Rs. 4 lakhs in seven or eight years is due to the increase of pay of a certain part of the medical service which was manned by 63 officers in 1915 at a cost of Rs. 7,52,000 but is manned in 1922 by 55 officers only at an annual cost of Rs. 11,79,300. This conclusion, therefore, can legitimately be drawn that we are compelled to pay more for less medical service.

Another reason for wasteful expenditure is the bar to the employment of indigenous agency. Not only district charges under the head "Medical" can substantially be reduced by a progressive and rapid Indianization of the Medical Service, but how the teaching of medical science can be furthered and provided for efficiently and yet economically by the employment of indigenous agency is well examplified by the Carmichael Medical College.

Not a little wasteful expenditure, again, occurs under the head "Allowances" provision for which I propose to cut down. In no departments, Sir, there are so many kinds of allowances such as acting allowance, duty allowance, dispensary allowance, staff allowance, local allowance, jail allowance, special pay, non-practising allowance, etc. In fact, it is a hopeless task to attempt to enumerate them all. The result of such an arrangement is, as it must be, that sometimes the allowances drawn by an officer almost equal, if not exceed the pay he gets. Thus, there is an officer drawing a pay of Rs. 1,750, who gets allowances amounting Rs. 1,250, another who is drawing a pay of Rs. 1,100 draws allowances to the extent of Rs. 1,000 and, Sir, it is said that instance is not wanting in which an officer having a salary of Rs. 950 draws an allowance of Rs. 1,200. Is it a wonder, Sir, that in view of such things the Retrenchment Committee observe:—

The circumstances in which allowances may be granted are prescribed by the fundamental rules. We believe a careful examination of the allowances now drawn by officers

of the medical services would show that a large proportion are inadmissible. We recommend that such an examination be made, and the utmost economy effected forthwith.

As regards economy due to honorary surgeons, Sir, the Retrenchment Committee recommend in paragraph 237 of their Report—

We are strongly of opinion that the appointment of honorary surgeons and physicians who will take over a number of beds, deliver lecture, and discharge the full duties attaching to their posts should be made in the Government institutions in Calcutta with as little delay as possible.

Further—

We suggest that the chairs of the Second Physician and the Second Surgeon at the Medical College Hospital might be filled in this manner.

It might be said in reply that the Government are considering these recommendations. But all that I would point out to the Council is that these are the steps which the Retrenchment Committee said should be taken "forthwith," and which the Committee expected would result in a saving of Rs. 82,000 *plus* Rs. 28,000, i.e., Rs. 1,10,000. And further what I should like to impress upon the Council is that acceptance of these recommendations will immediately do away with the necessity of realizing Rs. 1 lakh by way of fees from patients in the Calcutta hospitals.

Mr. BIJOYPROSAD SINGH ROY: I move that the demand for Rs. 46,06,000 under the head "32.—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 50,000.

Generally speaking any reduction of expenditure under this head is against the wish of the people, but it is also the desire of my countrymen that more money should be spent on "Medical," and this will be only possible if we can prevent waste. There is hardly any time left for me to enter into details, and so what I beg to suggest is that the two posts of the Second Surgeon and the Second Physician at the Medical College should be made honorary, and if not honorary, if the Government is pleased to give them, say, Rs. 1,000 a month, I am perfectly sure that eminent medical practitioners of Calcutta will be only too glad to accept this position of trust and responsibility. There are six professorial appointments in the School of Tropical Medicine, and of these only one has been given to an Indian and five to I.M.S. officers. The total monthly pay of these professors exceeds Rs. 11,000, and if two of them are given to non-I.M.S. officers with a pay of, say, Rs. 1,000 a month, there will be a saving of another Rs. 24,000 in addition to the saving of Rs. 26,000 in the case of the Medical College. I hope the Hon'ble the Minister will have courage enough to accept this motion and the excuse of the Government of India's sanction will not be put forward.

Babu NIRODE BEHARY MULLICK: I move that the demand of Rs. 46,06,000 under the head "32.—Medical (Transferred)" be reduced by Rs. 5.

I have brought forward this amendment to draw the attention of the Government to the necessity of the provision for some scholarships to students of the backward classes. Some time back a resolution was passed by this Council to the effect that some scholarships should be reserved for members of these classes. This has been given effect to in the Arts College, but nothing has been done so far as the Medical College is concerned.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the demand for Rs. 46,06,000 under the head '32—Medical' be reduced by Re. 1."

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: Such a mass of things has been said in connection with these resolutions that it will be necessary for me to ask leave for the time being extended in order to answer the points that have been raised. I may say at once in reply to the last speaker that I am prepared sympathetically to consider the question of reserving some seats for the backward classes in the medical schools.

Then, Sir, charges of a very serious character have been made in the course of the debate by my friend, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta. My friend says that he knows of a particular case of corruption of which Mr. Donovan was cognizant. I want a specific case, a specific instance, and a specific statement from my friend.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I shall be glad to give him that statement.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: Vague charges will not serve any useful purpose, because if, as the head of the department, I have to institute an inquiry, it must be upon definite charges and upon authoritative facts, and if these charges are framed upon that basis, I can assure my friend that the matter would be thoroughly and fully gone into and justice will be done, and the person guilty of corruption will be adequately punished.

Then my friend has observed that the Principal of the Medical College is so busy with his duties as a physician, that he has not got time to look after the requirements of the Medical College or of the Hospital. Now, with regard to this matter, I would point out that the Principal of the Medical College is only a consulting physician. He cannot be called in as an ordinary physician. It is only when a physician wants to consult him that his services are requisitioned. Obviously his duties as a consulting physician cannot be of so absorbing a character as to be detrimental to the interests of the Medical College or Hospital. This is the first time—I move about in Calcutta society—but this is the first time that I have heard an allegation of this kind being made. Well, my

friend, as in the previous case, should bring forward specific facts in proof of what he says. If he is able to do that, I again promise to make an inquiry into the matter and take necessary action in connection therewith.

Then, Sir, I come to the question of allowances, and I am further charged with having done nothing to Indianize the Medical Branch. I am not at liberty to unfold the secrets of my department: I am not at liberty to tell this Council the purport of the letters which I have addressed in this connection, but I may say this that I am an Indian and as such I am naturally anxious for the advancement of the interests of my countrymen, consistently with the requirements of duty and the efficiency of the department over which I have the honour to preside. I have done my best: I can say no more; and I ought to say no more. If cabinets give up their secrets, if the future historian is able to unfold them, I think justice will be done to the Minister, and that statement of my friend put forward in that authoritative fashion which is so peculiar to him—that statement will be found to be absolutely baseless and fanciful—more or less in the nature of a calumny. I speak with some warmth, because I feel indignant at the allegations made which are false. I am sorry I have to use strong language.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Is that a Parliamentary expression?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I will say "incorrect" if that will suit my friend better.

Then, Sir, with regard to the question of allowances. This is a matter which has been gone into by the Retrenchment Committee and it is under investigation. I am considering it as the Head of the Medical Department, and Government, as a whole, will consider it, with a view to revise these allowances, consistently with justice and the interests of the department. I do not think I have much more to add. I fear a good many of the speeches have been made under a misapprehension, and I trust that after the explanation I have given, the motions will be withdrawn.

The motions of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri and Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh Roy were then put and lost.

The motion of Babu Nirode Behary Mullick was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The original demand under the head "32.—Medical" was then put and agreed to.

33.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I move that a sum of Rs. 24,60,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "33.—Public Health."

In moving this resolution I desire to point out that the budget estimates for 1923-24 show an increase of Rs. 7 lakhs. The estimates for 1923-24 amount to Rs. 25½ lakhs as against Rs. 15½ lakhs of the previous year. There really has been no increase at all. It is due to readjustment of accounts under the orders of the Accountant-General. Attention was called to this matter by my friend, the Maharaja Bahadur of Nadia. What has been done is this: The augmentation grant of over Rs. 8 lakhs which used to be shown under the head "41.—Civil Works" now finds a place under this head. It is merely a transfer account and there has been no increase. Indeed, the estimates of this year under the head "Public Health" are less than those of last year and of the actuals of the previous year. We have been very hard hit by financial stringency. We have not been able to provide for many things that we should like to have done. Among the items of expenditure which we have put in the budget are these—Rs. 4½ lakhs for the Dacca Sewerage and Rs. 1,79,000 for the Comilla municipality. Is my friend, Mr. Indu Bhushan Dutta, here? He comes from Comilla. This will show how little I allow my politics to affect my judgment as a Minister. I have provided Rs. 1,79,000 for the Comilla waterworks. I might also point out here that notwithstanding his persistent opposition to all measures of Government I have nominated him a commissioner of the Comilla municipality. This will show that politics have little or no share in my conduct as a Minister of the Government. We have given Rs. 50,000 for the Raniganj water-works, Rs. 25,000 for free vaccination, and Rs. 60,000 for grants in connection with quinine. There is one matter which to me is a subject of regret, namely, that there are schemes of water-supply which have been submitted to us by the riparian municipalities; asking for grants and loans but which we have not been able to accede to on account of financial stringency. If we had the money, these works would have been started in several of the riparian municipalities on the left bank of the Hooghly.

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Fanindralal De Bahadur was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 1,09,200 for the pay of the Director and Assistant Director of Public Health under the head '33A.—Public Health Establishment (Transferred)' be reduced by Rs. 15,000."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 83,400 under the head "33A.—Public Health Establishment—Other Gazetted Officers" be reduced to Rs. 78,000.

I have to protest with all emphasis I can command to the proposal of increasing three gazetted officers by creating three new posts in a department which is proposed to be overhauled next July. Against the original budget estimate of Rs. 38,740 and the revised estimate of Rs. 78,000 it is proposed to enhance the grant under the sub-head to Rs. 83,400 for the

next year. The Council must be given time and all these fresh proposals for an over-officered department must wait for three months at least.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I rise to oppose the amendment which has just been moved by my friend, Dr. Haridhan Dutt. I am a layman, but like other laymen I know that prevention is better than cure. If diseases are to be prevented, it is absolutely necessary that we should have a strong, well-manned, independent Health Department. The care of this department has so long been in the hands of members of the Indian Medical Service, and we all know how this work has been done. Many of the members of the I.M.S. are unsympathetic and besides their work is to cure diseases and not to prevent them. I, therefore, think that if the health problem is to be solved in Bengal—and this problem is more urgent than any other problem that faces us—we should have more expenditure under this head and should not seek to curtail the expenditure which has been provided.

Mr. S. W. GOODE: I think Dr. Dutt is under a misapprehension in moving this motion. I sympathize with his horror at the extraordinary increase under this head if the increase were real, but as a matter of fact this is merely a budget adjustment. The position is that previously the executive engineers of the Engineering Department were borne on the temporary establishment. Quite recently the Secretary of State has placed them on the permanent establishment, and they have, therefore, in the budget, been shifted from the head "temporary establishment" up to the head "other gazetted officers". Now, the previous charges under the head of "temporary establishment" were Rs. 1,36,000. This year these charges were reduced to Rs. 80,000. But there has been a corresponding increase against "other gazetted officers" so that the increase is purely nominal. I hope Dr. Dutt will, therefore, withdraw his motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 20,000 under the head '33A.—Public Health Establishment—Lump provision for additional appointments and revision of scale' be refused."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 200 under the head "33A.—Public Health Establishment—Hill Allowance" be refused.

This is one of my pet subjects—the question of hill allowances—and as many times as I get an opportunity, I will speak against it. Darjeeling is said to be a sanitarium where the Director of Public Health is least wanted and far less his establishment. His work is with malarial districts and epidemics that break out in insanitary areas; why should the Council provide money to enable him to carry away his office and all to the hills during the most insanitary months passes all comprehension.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: This is a very small matter—only Rs. 200. Dr. Bentley did not go up to Darjeeling last year and this money was not spent. Probably this money will not be spent this year too

The motion was then put and lost.

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Surendra Narayan Sinha was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn :—

"That the demand of Rs. 40,000 for contribution towards the pay of Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors under the head '33A.—Public Health Establishment' be reduced by Re. 1."

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 50,000 under the head "33A.—Public Health Establishment—Other non-contract charges" be reduced by Rs. 13,844.

The Council cannot but look with a good deal of suspicion about these nondescript charges. The actual for 1921-22 was only Rs. 36,116, which is large enough as it is. The proposed increase has not been explained and I hope the Council will not allow any further increment over the actual for 1921-22.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: If Dr. Dutt will accept Rs. 45,000 as expenditure under this head, I have no objection. We will reduce the demand by Rs. 5,000.

The motion, as amended, was then put and agreed to.

Babu TANKANATH CHAUDHURI: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 7,11,000 under the head "33A.—Public Health Establishment" be reduced by Rs. 5,000.

When I gave notice of this amendment I did so with two purposes. First, I wanted to give the Minister an opportunity of explaining to the House the actual work done by this department, and another object was to point out to this House that when we cannot afford enough money for improving the public health of the province it is inadvisable on the part of Government to retain a large number of men under this department. With these words I formally place the amendment before the House.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I must oppose this amendment. It does not disclose any reason why this reduction should be made.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 16,14,000 under the head "33.—Public Health—Grants for Public Health purposes" be reduced by Rs. 3,000 provided for expenditure for obtaining information regarding methods adopted in Italy for prevention and mitigation of malaria.

This Council is voting money for Public Health purposes without any grudge. We have exhausted all Italian methods, including "bonification" and all "isms," to drive out malaria. Most of our experiments have been lavishly provided. After doing all these, we are now asked to sanction Rs. 3,000 to provide for obtaining information from Italy. Evidently it is a euphemism to provide expenses, passage both ways, daily delegation fee and all other necessary and unnecessary expenses to some big official. I am afraid, whoever that fortunate officer may be, he must be pretty high up in the service and mature in years (and in all probability not very far from the date of retirement) to be able to influence the Hon'ble the Minister to sanction the proposal. I hope the Council will decline to sanction the amount altogether. If the department is really anxious to train any one in the line, they should come forward with a proposal to found a good scholarship for a young D.P.H. and D.T.M. of this University for at least three years to be trained in Italy, Spain, and Egypt, and ultimately finish his education at the Rockfeller Institute in America, to come back to serve under the department under five years' guarantee. Until the department can prepare such a scheme, no money should be allowed to be wasted by any officer for a joy tour over the dales and mountains of Italy.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I am sorry I have again to oppose my friend, Dr. Haridhan Dutt. If the problem of malaria is to be tackled, we must know how it has been tackled in other countries. Now Italy is one of those countries in which the question of the prevention of malaria has been experimented upon with a great deal of success. Dr. Dutt asks: "Who is this fortunate officer who is going to investigate the question of malaria in Italy? Well, I also do not know who this person is, most probably it is Dr. Bentley, and Dr. Bentley is such an enthusiastic person. [A voice: "No!"] I will not go into the question who he is. Whoever he may be, it is absolutely necessary that the question should be investigated, and I therefore think that we ought not to cut down this expenditure.

Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur: I also beg to oppose the amendment of Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur. As regards my reasons for opposing this motion, I have been, to a certain extent, anticipated by my friend to the left. With regard to one point, the Rai Bahadur puts some emphasis upon the personality of the man who is to be sent to Italy, to study the question. His idea is that it is better to institute a scholarship and to send a student to make a study of it, and to complete his education in the Rockfeller Institute. Now that is not exactly the position which should be taken up by Government. It is not for the purpose of spreading education; it is for getting definite information. So an expert who is acquainted with the conditions of Bengal and who knows about the nature of malaria in Bengal will be the fittest man

to go and study and to compare the methods adopted here in this country in the Public Health Department for combating malaria, with the methods that are adopted elsewhere and in Italy, where they have been successful. When the whole country has been itself crying hoarse over this fight against malaria, it is curious that an amendment of this nature should have been moved and particularly by a gentleman who belongs to the medical profession. With all the emphasis that I can command I oppose this amendment.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I must oppose this amendment. I am surprised again that an amendment of this kind should have been submitted to this House by Dr. Haridhan Dutt. Dr. Haridhan Dutt must realize that research as regards malaria is a most important matter. The other day an anonymous benefactor gave His Excellency Lord Ronaldshay a donation of Rs. 50,000 for the purpose of carrying on malaria research, and a laboratory has been established at Sonarpur in consequence. As my friend, Dr. Banerjea, has pointed out it is most important that we should know what is being done in other countries as regards the prevention and eradication of malaria. There is no country where malaria has such a strong foothold as Italy. That being so it was in the fitness of things that we should send an expert to Italy, and we are fortunate that we have got this gentleman to go to Italy for research. Now let me tell you who this gentleman is (he is not going to Italy; he is already there)—His name is Mr. Inglis. I do not know whether Raja Maniloll Singh Roy is here, but on the last occasion when his name was mentioned it was met with the approval of Raja Maniloll Singh Roy. He was the Chief Engineer to the Government of Bengal in the Irrigation Department; and retired some years ago. We do not pay him at all; we pay him his out-of-pocket expenses. He is now in Italy making investigations and he will let us have the benefit of his inquiries when he comes back. We are very lucky in having got him. Instead of quarrelling over this small amount I think we must thank Mr. Inglis for his self-imposed duty for the benefit of Bengal.

Mr. D. C. GHOSE: When will he finish?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I cannot tell but surely he is not having a holiday.

The motion was then put and lost.

[At this stage the Hon'ble the President returned to the Chair.]

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: I beg to move that the demand for Rs. 20,000 under Detailed Account "33B.—Expenses in connection with Epidemic Diseases—Emergency Fund for Epidemics" be reduced by Re. 1.

My resolution, as can readily be seen, is moved with the object of calling attention to the Health Department. There are several matters

that claim attention: for instance, I find that there was Rs. 10,450 spent on hook-worm inquiry in 1921-22. But this year there is nothing budgeted for this disease—a preventable disease that 80 per cent. of the population is suffering from. I would also draw the Hon'ble the Minister's attention to the fact that the Rockfeller Foundation was to have sent one of its specialists free of charge to inquire into and treat this disease, but this arrangement fell through. I understand this sad state of affairs was brought about from the fact that the local Government could not provide the small necessary funds to procure assistants to work under this specialist. Think of it—a disease that 80 per cent. of the population is suffering from, and yet Government allows a generous offer from the Rockfeller Foundation not to fructify! I suppose there must be some explanation for this conduct, but it is hard to understand any enlightened Government declining such a generous offer, so vital to its people. Then, I find there is only Rs. 20,000 for emergency epidemics. Well, Sir, we have this year lost a lot of valuable lives. Some of our most prominent, most respected, and well-known citizens have died through enteric. We all know what havoc this preventable disease has caused. The names of the late Mr. Ironside and Sir Charles Kesteven come to one's mind, and how many exalted and talented Indian gentlemen have been carried off? Can you place a money value on precious lives so full of promise to mankind as these? These are the martyrs that have paid the final penalty. Shall we call them the pioneer martyrs to sanitation? How long will this Government permit this martyrdom to go on? The preventable treatment of enteric is practically carried out on the same lines as that of cholera. Every case of typhoid fever means a circuit between the "alvine" discharges of one person into the mouth of another. The bacillus is carired by one of four things—food, water, fingers, and flies. Our history informs that about 70 years ago, 50,000 persons died of cholera in one year in England, all through ignorance. In 1854 there arose a doctor of a clever, searching brain, who, after careful inquiry, was able to show that in nearly every instance those attacked with the disease obtained their drinking water from a source that had been polluted with the intestinal discharges from a case of cholera. In 1910 there were 25,000 deaths from typhoid fever in the United States, representing at least 250,000 cases—one person in every 400. From that year onward a marked improvement occurred, until for about 27,000,000 people in 60 cities of the United States the mortality reached the exceedingly low point of 4·2 per thousand. Cholera and typhoid, or enteric, I am informed, present the same, or almost the same, features in common. Cholera has prevailed for years in the Philippines but is now under control. Cholera is now cleared out of England. Give your energetic Health Officer, Dr. Bentley, one pie per head of your population, and he will free Bengal from cholera within ten years. I am well aware of the Government's financial condition, and it is not my intention to embarrass it by asking for further grants which I know will be refused,

but in such a case of urgency as this I think money might be transferred from some other department such as engineering or civil works to grapple with this important matter. The Hon'ble Mr. Stephenson said the other day, when speaking about the secret service funds, that money came into his possession and was untouched: here is a deserving cause to put it to. I find on the average there are 84,000 deaths from cholera every year in Bengal. For each death there are not less than three attacks of the disease or say an average of 250,000 cases of cholera on the average, year by year. Assuming that the loss or expenses involved by sickness or death from cholera is only Rs. 10 per case, this means an unnecessary expense of Rs. 25,00,000 to the population. This estimate is, of course, far below the actual, which is probably much nearer one crore. This loss can be prevented by the prevention of cholera, and this can be accomplished with little difficulty and at relatively small cost. When we look around our great vast industries and think what labour means to them, these great, huge buildings, with their enormous expensive machinery, big, powerful engines and the industrial roar of the looms as they turn out thousands and thousands of tons of hessians for the world's demand, it makes one stand bewildered and deeply impressed; then we have our great coal-fields, the miners deep down in the bowels of the earth hewing coal for India's great industries, our tea gardens, with their great vast spaces, cultivating and preparing tea for the world's markets. Surely this must bring forcibly home to all that the industrial workers of India are entitled to every consideration, particularly in measures of health. Why, Sir, the more we consider this question the greater our responsibility appears to be to these workers and the world at large. Let me here give you a few instances where this terrible cholera ravaged the population. In 1921 nearly 1,000 coolies in tea gardens in Assam died from cholera. This meant a loss exceeding Rs. 2,00,000. There is quite a possibility that the infection was imported from Bengal. In 1908, owing to appalling cholera epidemics in the coal district, many thousands of Indian miners perished and the remaining working population on many mines fled away, and as a result a number of collieries had to be closed down for a time. This meant an enormous loss. Only two or three years back several tea gardens in the Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts were attacked. Some gardens lost several hundred coolies by death, and many others who left the gardens through fear. Very heavy loss was occasioned both to the labourers and their dependents, and to the employers. There is scarcely a jute mill on the Hooghly which has not sacrificed a European martyr on the scaffold of sanitation by cholera. A few years ago a prominent firm of agents in Calcutta imported a highly experienced jute mill manager from Dundee, with a view to placing him in charge of their mills. Within six weeks of his arrival he died of cholera, an epidemic in the mill also caused the death of 47 Indians. The subject wants to be thoroughly ventilated. The general public must be made to think about it, because taxation for a subject like this not only

means a saving of life but also eventually a saving of money. Take, for instance, what it costs the population of Calcutta annually for mosquito nets, it cannot be less than Rs. 15,00,000; ten per cent. of this annually would free Calcutta of dengue fever, elephantiasis, reducing malaria and all danger of yellow fever. Now, if these preventable diseases were tackled in the manner they ought to be, no mosquito nets would be required, life would be saved, health would improve and production in our various industries would be increased and all mankind would benefit. The total mortality from cholera in the whole of Bengal for the year 1922 amounted to 51,704. In the case of cholera, vigorous measures have been applied with signal success. It is quite possible to live in the midst of a ravaging cholera epidemic without contracting the disease. Within recent years epidemics have been suppressed and the spread of the infection limited. The home of true cholera is the delta of the Ganges. Let us try and find out the causes of this scourge, and how to remedy them. For miles the banks of the river Hooghly are used as latrines. The water is polluted by the bathers. Their excreta is frequently passed into the water. This unfiltered water is used for watering the Calcutta streets. It is freely supplied for privies and flushing drains, but I have frequently seen the ignorant and careless drinking this water from ground hydrants. This is a matter that should be dealt with by the authorities without delay. There is a huge boating population who pass all their excreta into the river. I need not elaborate on this. Any one who cares to walk along the embankment *vià* Chandpal and Babu Ghats will be startled at the condition of affairs, the human excreta being apparent as far as the eye can reach. Then the food supply must receive further care; better inspection must take place, the pure food Act is not being properly applied in Bengal municipalities and has not been extended to rural areas. The milk supply requires thorough supervision and it is known that vegetables are often washed in unfiltered water. If this is so in Calcutta, what about the mufassal? Officers should do propaganda work throughout the villages. All must be taught that water for drinking purposes must not be defiled. Any call of nature taking place near drinking water should be looked upon as crime. The people should be encouraged to punish anyone found committing this crime. Reports are already to hand of outbreaks of cholera. It behoves us to be prepared for any serious outbreak. We must provide our health officers and sanitary inspectors with adequate supplies of chloride of lime, permaganate of potash and quicklime. Posters and leaflets dealing with cholera prevention will have to be distributed. I have read a pamphlet by Dr. Bentley on Village Sanitation. In that pamphlet he gives excellent advice and I presume all he wants is the power to enforce his orders. That means money and men. Municipal health officers were appointed in twenty municipalities after 1914. In nearly every case cholera was being reduced by 70 per cent. in the towns served by these people. The fact speaks for itself. District boards have only had health officers since 1920-21, but the enormous area

they have to cover makes good supervision difficult. The numbers are ridiculously small. In England there is one health officer for every 10,000 of the population. In Bengal there is one for every million. A grant of 2½ lakhs per annum, or on the average Rs. 10,000 to each district board, earmarked for anti-cholera work, would suffice to bring the organization up to the standard necessary for the control of cholera. Now, Sir, I hope I have proved to this House the absolute necessity of using energetic measures at once so that the lives of people in this great province may be protected. The responsibility cannot be entirely placed on the Government. There is a duty devolving upon every member of this Council, i.e., let us fulfil the first sociological conditions, that we neither "live for self" nor "live for others" but we live for self and others. Let us shake ourselves fro mthis lethargy from which we are suffering and show that we are in earnest and that we will not rest until we have a much more healthy Bengal.

Babu ANNADA CHARAN DUTTA: It has been well said that prevention is better than cure and I shall confine myself on this occasion to the discussion of the policy which has been adopted by Government for the purpose of preventing epidemic diseases especially small-pox. Last year there was an outbreak of small-pox in various parts of the country, especially in the Chittagong Division and it was found that the arrangements made for vaccination were extremely defective. I do not know whether the withdrawal of the realization of the two annas fee for individual cases of vaccination has anything to do with it or not, but it has been found in actual practice that very meagrely paid officers were sent to the mufassal and they did their work rather perfunctorily and without proper inspection. The result was that many lives were lost. It is well-known that every fifth or sixth year there is a chance of a general outbreak of small-pox, and I believe in places of the Chittagong Division small-pox might break out in an epidemic form this year. What particular steps have been taken by the Government to withstand the general outbreak of this disease? Perhaps none! I would draw the particular attention of Government to that fact. One aspect of the question is that if Government do not expect to send out a large number of people from their own staff for the purpose of doing good to the people in the interior, Government should take the earliest steps, and the cheapest possible steps, for the purpose of giving some training or turning out trained people for this purpose. To a certain question of mine, the reply given was that practically all the medical schools in the province have been closed to the boys of the Chittagong Division. When I proposed that at least a compounders' class be opened, even that was not allowed. If we could get that facility perhaps we would be able to attend to our particular needs ourselves, at least to some extent. But even this has not been done. Therefore I inquire whether anything in that direction is proposed to be done this time and whether any proper remedial steps

will be taken to prevent a general outbreak of small-pox in Chittagong and other outlying places.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I beg to oppose this amendment. I do not appreciate the logic of the mover, because I come from the mufassal and I have to battle with diseases during epidemic times--against the spread of epidemics of small-pox, cholera, and fever. If Mr. Campbell Forrester would come with me to the mufassal at that time, I am sure he will not come forward with a proposal for a reduction of the amount provided for. He asks the Council to make a reduction of one rupee, perhaps for the purpose of discussing the matter; but if the matter is discussed, I am sure I can carry conviction to every educated man that Government ought to provide a much larger amount than what has been provided here. If Government do not do it, I submit that it will be an act of injustice to the people who are suffering from these diseases. That is all I wish to say.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi WASIMUDDIN AHMED: I beg to associate myself with the mover of this motion. I intend to say a few words with regard to the amount set apart for combating epidemic diseases in the mufassal. I understand there is a staff in Calcutta for helping the mufassal district boards and municipalities with doctors and money when there is an outbreak of cholera or other contagious diseases, but I find that in practice this procedure is not very helpful. The year before last I had occasion to send a telegram to Calcutta for some doctors to attend to cases of cholera which broke out in an epidemic form in my district. No doubt a reply came saying that a doctor was being sent, but for five or six days he did not turn up. Then I was informed that as the doctor was going on leave he could not be sent. Very often we find that before the arrival of a doctor, either the epidemic subsides or there is considerable mortality amongst the inhabitants, because one is sent after such an undue delay. The doctor always comes too late. I, therefore, suggest that instead of sending out doctors, money should be set apart for this purpose and made over to the district boards according to their needs. I hope the Hon'ble the Minister will consider this suggestion. I think that if he accepts my suggestion the money would be well spent. I have no doubt that our health officers and their assistants, when they go to the mufassal will be able to enlist the sympathy and support of the local doctors. Last year, when there was an outbreak of cholera in the Pabna district, I went to the interior and asked the local doctors to help; they did so willingly, and their work was very satisfactory. So if the money is handed over to the district boards they will be able to manage this work much better. In that case the money will be well spent. I think, however, that after the appointment of health officers and their assistants, we are always able to find an agency to go to the affected quarters at once and we can find some doctors in

he local areas to take up these cases. Last year I went into the mufassal when cholera broke out in the district of Pabna and several other places and I always noticed that the local doctors worked satisfactorily. The district board only want some aid so that they may be in a position to maintain some doctors at headquarters whom they could send out to affected areas.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I must oppose this amendment, not because I disagree with Mr. Campbell Forrester in what he said; on the contrary I agree in everything that he said, but the underlying principle upon which his amendment is based is wrong. He has singled out this emergency fund for his discourse on the prevention of epidemics. Prevention is better than cure undoutedly; but prevention is no good to the dead. When a person is ill and an epidemic is raging, Government must send doctors and must take preventive measures. (Hear, hear!) The first duty of Government is to supply medical aid to the living sick and to supply good drinking water. That is the very first duty of the Government, because if people die, it is no good supplying them with preventive measures or even with food or education. Therefore, the very first duty of the Government is to supply medical aid and good drinking water—and I am afraid Government have failed in doing that.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I have listened with great interest to this debate. So far as I can make out, the drift of Mr. Campbell Forrester's speech is that we should spend more money to avert epidemics than we have provided for. I am entirely in sympathy with this view. We have not got money and we are obliged to cut our coat according to our cloth—that is the situation. Then, turning to Babu Annada Charan Dutta, I find that he says that there is every prospect of outbreaks of small-pox taking place in Chittagong every five years; and he thinks that Government ought to help in averting these attacks. As a matter of fact, Government does its level best in this matter. As soon as we receive information from the district boards about the outbreak of any disease, be it cholera or small-pox, we at once send up a contingent of our officers, generally Assistant Directors of Public Health, with a suitable stock of medicine for doing what they can to combat the ravages of the outbreak. So Government is always in the front in regard to matters of this kind. When there was an outbreak of cholera in Chandpur, what did Government do? Government at once sent up practically the whole of the staff of the Health Department for the purpose of doing what should be done. Then, again, when we were faced with the prospect of epidemic diseases after the occurrence of the floods in North Bengal, we repeated the same operation: we sent out doctors and medical stores. What has been the result? We averted what might have been a calamity. Therefore, notwithstanding what my friend, Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur, has said in such an ostentatious manner, that Government has

failed in its duty, I claim that Government has not failed in its duty, but that Government has always been up to the mark in doing its duty; and Government has consistently with its limited resources done what it should have done. It would really have been a matter of surprise that, with Dr. Bentley, whose enthusiasm and devotion is well known, at the helm of affairs in the Health Department, anything would be left undone for saving human life and mitigating human suffering.

Well, Sir, a suggestion has been made by my friend opposite that we should subsidize the district boards for the purpose of averting epidemics. I wholly dissent from that view, because the staff that is sent out to do work in this connection is a staff that is employed on other work as well. It is when an epidemic breaks out or is about to break out that the staff is detached from its regular work and sent out to the area that is, or is likely to be, affected. We have a kala-azar staff, and when any place is threatened with kala-azar epidemic the staff is sent there. Therefore, that suggestion of my friend it is impossible for me to accept. I do not think that there is anything further for me to add, and I do not suppose that it is seriously intended to cut down any expenditure under this head.

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: I should like to know the reason why the hookworm investigation was given up?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: It was given up for lack of funds. The Standing Committee on Public Health went fully into the matter and Government was influenced in its decision chiefly owing to lack of funds.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Mr. Campbell Forrester, do you wish to withdraw your amendment?

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: Yes, Sir, as it has fulfilled my purpose.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

At this stage the Council adjourned for 15 minutes.

After the adjournment.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: After the information I have received from Mr. Goode, I beg leave to withdraw the following motion which stands in my name:—

"That the demand of Rs. 1,12,000 under the head '33B.—Expenditure in connection with Epidemic Diseases' be reduced by Rs. 12,000 provided for provincial fund for Malaria Observatory at Sonarpore."

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 15,000 under the head '33C.—Bacteriological Laboratories' be refused.

We have already got quite a splendid bacteriological laboratory in the Medical College under special officers who are all whole-time officers under the Government of Bengal. We have also established another bacteriological laboratory in the School of Tropical Medicine; and those of us who are familiar with the working of the Tropical School know the extensive lines on which the laboratory has been working. Both these laboratories are well equipped and cost the Government a very large sum of money. I find that the Public Health Department has already established a loboratory and wants to extend it to serve the purpose of their own department. The Public Health Department can have all their work done in the Government laboratories which already exist, of which I have mentioned the two, namely, the one at the Medical College and the other at the Tropical School. I, for myself, am opposed to the duplication of laboratories in Calcutta for the purposes of two different departments belonging to the same Government and under the same Ministry. I shall be told perhaps that, in other countries, the Public Health Departments are equipped with a laboratory of its own. It may be so; but if we can manage to have the laboratory work done, and done efficiently, by one institution in the city of Calcutta, I fail to understand the wisdom of establishing a similar laboratory, simply for the purpose of coming up to the line which exists in other countries. I also fail to understand what difficulty there could be in having the Public Health Department getting their laboratory work done in the Medical College laboratory. The Surgeon-General is in charge of the Medical College, but I do not for a moment believe that he would be opposed to give any help to the Director of Public Health, if the use of the laboratory in the Medical College is required for his purpose. My point is economy, and in these days of strain in our financial position, I believe, Sir, that the proposal that I am making will receive the consideration it deserves.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: I must oppose this motion. This matter was considered by the Sanitary Organization Committee and they came to the conclusion that the Public Health Department must have a laboratory of its own. I do not think that, in view of that expression of opinion, we shall be justified in accepting the amendment. At the same time, however, I will look into the matter and I hope that on this assurance my friend will withdraw his motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the demand for Rs. 85,000 for travelling allowances under the head '33.—Public Health' be reduced by Rs. 21,250."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand for Rs. 23,75,000 under the head "33.—Public Health" for items other than travelling be reduced by Re. 1.

By bringing this amendment, I simply wish to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble the Minister the deplorable defective state of the drainage system in the eastern part of Rajshahi, Pabna and Dinajpur, which is not unknown to him. He is also, I believe, anxious to improve the condition by taking active steps in this direction, but everyone knows that nothing can be done. The connecting rivers are being silted up and thus the drainage becomes very defective. I think—though I am not positive on the point—that in the eastern part of Dinajpur, some of the railway bridges are being lowered; if so, it will further affect the drainage system. I think that a detailed examination is necessary on these points. Some time ago, I asked a question in this Council regarding the state of things on the two sides of a certain river in Pabna and Rajshahi, suggesting an inquiry into the condition of the people living on the two sides of the river in question. In reply, I was told that the insanitary condition of the river was well-known and that such an inquiry was needless. It was known to the authorities. Thanks to the labours of the Retrenchment Committee, now that an improvement in the state of our finances is in sight, I take this opportunity of bringing the matter to the notice of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge. I know that he is personally very anxious to improve the condition so far as it lies in his power. Some time ago an application was submitted to him regarding the defective drainage of certain villages in the east of Rajshahi and Pabna which are being depopulated. I understand that some inquiry was made, but I do not know the result. If early remedial measures are not taken the consequences will prove serious. It is for the purpose of bringing these facts to the notice of the Hon'ble the Minister that I have brought forward this amendment, and I want to hear an assurance from him.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: A joint inquiry is now being made by the Public Health Department, the Irrigation Department and the Agriculture Department in connection with the area round the Hardinge Bridge—I think that is the area referred to by my friend. Let us await the result of this inquiry. Beyond that, I am afraid I can give no further assurance to my friend.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 24,60,000 under the head "33.—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 1,50,000.

I am sorry that I have to get up again and criticize the policy of the Hon'ble the Minister whom I have regarded for more than 20 years of my life as the ideal leader of politics. If I criticize him to-day, Sir, it is

not because I respect him the less, but because I find that the ideal that I have followed for so many years has failed to reach that summit for which I have been so long hoping. Sir, when during the budget discussions we criticized the policy of the Public Health Department we were told in reply by the Hon'ble the Minister that, simply because the number of deaths from cholera in 1922 was less than the number of deaths in 1921, his department had achieved wonderful results. I hope the Hon'ble the Minister has not forgotten that the number of deaths which occurred in 1919, i.e., before he came to office, was less than the number of cases in 1921 and that there was an actual outbreak of this epidemic in 1921. Therefore it was hardly fair for him to say: "Look what my department has done." We appreciate his help in regard to the Comilla water-works for improving the water-supply in rural areas; but we want a definite policy from the Government as regards the question of water-supply. We have been hearing often and often that in the matter of water-supply the local needs must be met by local funds. I must protest against this policy. This policy, if carried to its logical end, means that the local bodies must be left to themselves to work out the water-supply schemes in rural areas. During the last August session, the Hon'ble the Minister assured us that he would look into the question of tube wells as the means for removing the water scarcity in the rural areas. We should like to know to-day what he has been able to achieve in that direction. As I explained in my speech, tanks are but mere reservoirs of rain water and are not always fruitful sources of supply. When there is a considerable drought, as happened last year or the year before, tanks dry up, and until we have some other sources to tap in the rural areas, I am afraid people will have to suffer from water scarcity. We have seen with our own eyes people seizing mud and trying to squeeze out water from it to assuage their thirst. I request the Hon'ble the Minister, I humbly request him, to take up the question of water supply and after making experiments to declare to the district boards that he has found out one method by which they can find a constant source of pure water. I have found out from inquiry that there are three bodies, independent of one another, which look to the question of water-supply. First, there is the Sanitary Board, an independent non-official body. Then there is the department of the Sanitary Commissioner, now called the department of Public Health. And then, there is the Department of the Sanitary Engineer. Now it may happen, and it has happened in connection with many water works, that the opinion of the Sanitary Engineer's Department is quite at variance with that of the Public Health Department. The main question is, whether we ought to give people good water or we ought to bring water to their doors. That is the problem with which municipal towns are faced. The Sanitary Engineer's Department I believe is anxious to bring water to the doors of the people by providing pipes, which are rather costly; but the Department of Public

Health seems to think that if you supply water at convenient centres, people will only be too glad to take the water as best they can. In view of this divergence of opinion I find that some riparian municipalities have suffered to some extent, not knowing which course to adopt. I should therefore suggest to the Hon'ble the Minister that he should see that there is better co-ordination between these three departments. Sir, the Hon'ble the Minister has been presiding to-day—and I hope he will also preside to-morrow—over the District Boards Conference. After talking to many of the members of that conference, I find that they are anxious to see the question of water-supply solved once for all, and they also think that Government should take the lead in this matter. I therefore request the Hon'ble the Minister to see that instead of extending the principle of supplying local needs from local sources he should extend his efforts to solve the problem of water-supply with the help of the local bodies.

Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 24,60,000 under the head "33.—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 50,000.

I beg to draw the attention of the House to the insufficient provision made for the bacteriological laboratories. It is gradually declining every year. The actuals of 1921-22 were Rs. 21,992, but the revised estimate of 1922-23 is Rs. 13,000 only. The establishment charges for the year 1921-22 were a little over Rs. 7,42,000, but the provision for the ensuing year has been fixed as high as Rs. 7,91,000. I beg to remind the House of the Resolution of the Government of India issued on 23rd May, 1914, in which the duties of the Public Health Department were fixed as (*1*) research, and (*2*) improvement of the sanitary condition of town by better arrangement of drainage and water-supply, and of rural areas by starting travelling dispensaries, making provision for drinking water and by adopting measures to mitigate the distress arising from malaria. But I am sorry to remark that the provisions for this constructive programme are very insufficiently made, whereas the establishment charges have been allowed to increase. The charges for the Public Health Department in 1921-22 were Rs. 7,42,705, but the revised estimate of 1922-23 is Rs. 7,35,000; I, therefore, want to reduce the budget estimate of the ensuing year by Rs. 50,000 or to reduce it to Rs. 7,41,000, yet it will be an improvement by the amount of Rs. 6,000 over the revised estimate of this year. This reduction can safely be made by the Hon'ble the Minister himself, but to convince the House that this reduction can be effected without any loss in efficiency, I beg to point out the ways. The number of "other gazetted officers" was 11, but this year it has been raised to 14; I suggest that the same number be kept, namely, 11 for the ensuing year, and thus to make a saving to the amount of Rs. 20,000 calculating on the basis of a little over Rs. 500 a month for one man, whereas the average pay is Rs. 750 per head. The next heavy item

is the lump provision for the "additional appointments, etc." But as we are not told how much we require for revision of pay and how much for additional appointments, in the absence of any clear statement, which ought to have been given, I think Rs. 8,000 can be reduced if we refuse to make any additional appointment this year. The next heavy items are under "contract contingencies" and under "other non-contract charges." These charges are increasing every year without any explanation. I propose to make a reduction of Rs. 8,000 under "contract contingencies" and Rs. 14,000 under "other non-contract charges" and thus only to allow the actuals of 1921-22. Thus my total reduction amounts to Rs. 50,000. I beg to remind the House that I want to make this reduction with a view to cut down superfluous expenditure which is incurred to maintain officials at the cost of research and other useful works for which the department was originally created. Even the kala-azar department has been abolished to feed other departments to which everyone will object.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: In the absence of Maulvi Ekramul Huq and with the permission of the Hon'ble the President, I move that the demand of Rs. 24,60,000 under the head "33—Public Health" be reduced by Re. 1.

With reference to the proposal of my friend, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, I may be permitted to make a suggestion, and it is for this purpose that I rise to speak. I think the question of water-supply in the rural areas is a very important question, and we have been thinking over it for some time. I discussed this question with the Chairman of my district Board, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emdaduddin Ahmed, who is here and will be able to bear me out. It is a question of money, a large sum will be required for the purpose and it is not possible that the required amount can be spent either from the provincial fund or by the district boards. My suggestion is—I know that if this suggestion be accepted the question of water-supply may be solved to a certain extent—let the district boards be given a loan of a lakh of rupees each from the provincial funds on condition of repayment within 10 years without interest, and let each district board be authorized to raise a similar amount by loan and to grant loans to the villagers on condition of repayment within 10 years without interest. Now, Sir, district boards are not rich enough to sink tube wells or excavate tanks, etc., out of their own funds. So I suggest that if Rs. 500 or so each is granted to select influential men in the villages on condition that the amount should be paid without interest in the course of 10 years, a good number of people will gladly avail themselves of the offer; the pressure on the district funds will not be heavy and this loan without interest will come to the villagers as a welcome relief. They will excavate tanks, etc., and the repayment will not be difficult as fish-culture in them will help a great deal towards the repayment. Where there is no possibility of new tanks being excavated, the owners of old

tanks will be very glad to have them improved with the funds. As a conference of district boards is being held just now I beg to put forward these suggestions for the consideration of the Hon'ble the Minister so that they may be discussed at the conference.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I desire to draw the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister to the fact that more than Rs. 71 lakhs is spent by him in the Public Health and Medical Departments. But this amount is mainl yspent for the benefit of the town populations, that is about 3 millions of people. Now the population of Bengal is more than 46 millions; so the remaining 43 millions of people of Bengal get nothing beyond the small grants that the department makes to the mufassal dispensaries, and for vaccination and other diseases of an epidemic nature. It should be borne in mind that the people of this country who pay the taxes by which the Government is carried on received no benefit whatsoever from it—I mean no benefit in the sense of very little benefit. I draw the Minister's attention to this fact so that the benefits of British Rule may be brought to the door of the poorest man in this country.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: There are various modes adopted nowadays for the supply of water. Some are mechanical processes and the others are non-mechanical ones. The supply of water by means of tube wells is a non-mechanical process but although it is an excellent system its utility is not so much appreciated. I brought this matter up before the Council some time ago but nothing came of it. Whatever means is adopted to solve this problem of water-supply in the rural areas will require a large amount of money and I do not think the district boards are in a position to take up this question alone, unless they are provided with funds. The Hon'ble the Minister, who is thoroughly alive to the scarcity of water in the villages, has taken note of the various discussions that have taken place on the subject from time to time and no doubt the question will also be discussed in the District Boards Conference which is being held just now. But I do not know his views and I hope and trust that he will consider the suggestions I have submitted.

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: My friend, Babu Indu Bhushan, has expressed his sense of disappointment. He says that I have not come up to his high anticipations. I am very sorry for this. I am reminded of what Lord Morley says. Lord Morley, speaking of himself, observed that when he entered the India Office it was expected that he would carry into it his bundle of first principles and apply them straightaway. He disappointed his friends because he could not do that. He felt as every administrator must feel when he enters upon a responsible office; he felt that however high, however noble his principles might

be, they must be dominated by circumstances in their practical application. We cannot enter a great office with a bundle of first principles and apply them straightaway. You must look around, consider your surroundings and place yourself in the atmosphere in which you are. If you have the instincts of an administrator you must apply your principles largely controlled by the circumstances in which you find yourself. If Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta had tried to adjust his angle of vision in the light of the principle which I have enunciated, he would not have been disappointed. He has asked me to formulate a policy—that is a very large order—a policy for the water-supply of the whole of Bengal. I must confess I am unable to carry out his behest in this respect, because the policy must widely differ according to the conditions of soil, and other circumstances. Therefore there can be no uniform general water-supply policy for the whole Presidency. It must be determined according to the character of the circumstances in each case. We are trying a system of tube boring in some cases; we are trying it at Patuakhali in Bakarganj, and we have spent Rs. 10,000 on this and are going to spend Rs. 3,000 more. In some cases we have dug to a depth of 200 feet and have not been able to get good drinking water. This is a system which is not of universal application. We cannot apply it to the hilly tracts of Jalpaiguri, or in other similar districts. Thus the question of the excavation of tanks comes in, and my friend must be aware that we have on the agenda paper of the District Board Conference, which is being held just now, a resolution which will empower the district boards to apply to wells and tanks within their jurisdiction the policy and principles which obtain in connection with municipalities. That will go partly to solve the water-supply problem. We are all anxious to provide for an adequate water-supply so far as lies in our power, but we must go warily, we cannot afford to waste public money on experiments, which may be futile. That is so far as the question of policy is concerned.

I think my friend, Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, has referred to a scheme for solving the water-supply problem I confess I have not been able to follow the details of the scheme outlined by him. If he instructs Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, who attends the District Board Conference, to place his scheme before the meeting, it will no doubt be considered. I do not think I need detain the House any longer. I have tried to meet the points that have been raised. I trust the grant which I have asked for will be passed in its entirety.

The motion of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta was then put and lost.

The motions standing in the names of Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Roy Bahadur and Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri were then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The original demand as amended by the Council under the head "33—Public Health," was then put and agreed to.

34.—AGRICULTURE.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): I move that the grant of Rs. 19,11,000 under the head "34.—Agriculture" be voted.

The main head Agriculture includes Veterinary, Agriculture and Co-operation, which, I would again point out, is wrongly called Co-operative Credit. The demand for the Veterinary Department is Rs. 2,86,000. The demand a year ago was Rs. 3,04,000 and the revised figures for the current year were Rs. 3,08,000. Thus compared to the revised estimates of the current year we show a reduction of Rs. 22,000. When it is remembered that the incremental pay of the staff involves an increase over the current year's figures the Council will, I think, admit that we have had an eye to economy in framing this estimate. There is a further arrangement which tends to belittle our efforts at economy. The recoveries from local bodies for Veterinary Assistants is a fixed proportion of their cost. But in fixing this amount their average cost throughout their service is taken into account, and therefore in the early stages the local bodies are really paying more than the fixed proportion of the actual cost, while, in the later stages, as officers become senior, the local bodies pay less than the fixed proportion of the actual cost of the assistants. The result is that every year the difference between the amount paid by Government as salaries to assistants and the amount recovered from local bodies grows more and more. In the current year it was only Rs. 232, while in the present demand it is almost Rs. 2,000. Then, again, I would invite attention, as showing the actual cost of this department, to the Veterinary receipts, which are Rs. 1,81,100 compared to Rs. 1,00,000 in the current year's original estimates, although they do show a decrease of Rs. 23,000 compared to the revised estimates of the current year, due to special circumstances. The point, however, is that while the demand is Rs. 2,86,000 the receipts are Rs. 1,81,000. Or the net amount to be expended on this department in the current year, including non-voted expenditure, is Rs. 1,47,000, and for this we get not only the whole Veterinary service for the province but the Veterinary College as well. I doubt if anybody can call this extravagant and I hope the Council will vote the complete grant.

I now come to Agriculture itself. In this demand, totalling Rs. 11,26,000, there are three main items, viz., Agriculture, Sericulture and Botanical Gardens. The Botanical Gardens account for Rs. 1,88,000, Sericulture for Rs. 2,20,000, and thus for Agriculture itself, pure and simple, the basic industry of this province, the industry that directly feeds and gives a livelihood to forty millions of our people and is directly responsible for most of our commerce and indirectly for many of our industries—for this department the demand is actually Rs. 7,18,000. It

is not even £50,000. Sir, the actual demand for Agriculture itself is about one pice per head of the population directly dependent on the industry. Surely the Council will not think this extravagant. Surely they will think with me that it is deplorably little and regret, as I do, the financial stringency that prevents us from launching into expenditure much more in keeping with the object which we have in view. As I pointed out last year, other provinces are more generous than Bengal in their expenditure on Agriculture. The Director of Agriculture and his personal assistant, his office and staff, their travelling allowance, contingencies and some other items, are estimated to cost Rs. 92,000. This includes an officer on special duty preparing a manual. I may inform the Council that this officer has already been withdrawn and therefore the amount estimated for him will not be spent. I may also inform the Council that orders to restrict contingencies and travelling allowances have issued and we confidently expect saving under these heads. It is impossible, however, to specify the amounts now, or to say how they will be distributed. There is a provision of Rs. 1,000 for stipends to students, who are all the children of cultivators, and to this the Council will have no objection. There is provision for temporary establishment amounting to Rs. 5,000. Emergencies arise, men are necessary on occasions, for short periods, when there is no time to refer to Government. We therefore allow the Director a discretion to appoint temporary hands, on pay not exceeding Rs. 100 a month for a period not exceeding one year. Hence this Rs. 5,000. The contingencies of this office have been referred to in the general discussion. It will be seen that we have kept them considerably below the revised estimates but we are inquiring to see what further reduction is possible. It must be remembered, however, that these contingencies include the stationery of a big office of 23 clerks, livery for 13 servants and various other items, which total up to a large sum. Under the other supervising staff we have four Deputy Directors. As a matter of fact probably five of these officers are necessary, if we are to make full use of the research work of the department. The necessity of these officers has been debated before in the Council, and the Council actually provided for five. With a view to economy—although I often think it is false economy—we have managed with three for part of the current year and a fourth for a few months. We cannot get on without four in the coming year, especially as we mean to reduce the number of Superintendents. The other gazetted officers include our research experts. The technical staff includes 54 district agricultural officers and 162 demonstrators. A considerable reduction in temporary staff is shown because we have issued orders to discontinue the special jute forecast, on the ground that it is hardly a function of Government to make such a forecast. Contingent charges have been budgeted for at Rs. 7,000 less than the current year's budget. I can assure the Council that every effort will be made to reduce these still more. In regard to experimental farms I have little to say. We have only 13 farms. We should have

many more. Under Seed Stores we have issued orders to close those that are not appreciated or profitable.

I turn now to Sericulture. Sericulture is a very technical and not unremunerative business. We have several nurseries and we require a large staff in connection with these. The nurseries are educational as well as standardizing institutions. They produce seed free from disease. We show reductions in several items of this budget compared to the revised figures, but they are counteracted by increments in salaries accruing and by the restoration of Rs. 12,300 for "grant and contributions" which was placed in the original budget estimate of the current year, but omitted in the revised estimates. Our estimate is the same as the revised estimates of the current year, but I may tell the Council two things. Firstly, we shall have some reductions from retrenchments to which we are giving effect in the temporary staff and secondly we shall increase our receipts by about Rs. 20,000. We are further giving up the research work at Alipore. The Council must remember when considering this sericulture expenditure of about Rs. 2 lakhs that we expect to get Rs. 80,000 back from the operations. We actually got back over Rs. 60,000 up to January 23rd in the current year. Almost the whole of the large lump of Rs. 1,13,000 shown for contingencies is the cost of rearing and cultivation, disinfection and purchase of leaf. In the Botanical Gardens we show a reduction of Rs. 7,000 on the revised estimates of the current year and Rs. 27,000 on the original estimate of the current year.

And now I come to Co-operation, the budget estimate for which shows an increase of Rs. 40,000 over the revised estimate, and Rs. 54,000 over the current year's original estimate. The main increase, it will be observed, is in temporary establishment. Temporary establishment includes auditors, and we must provide auditors for the societies. As a matter of fact the societies, after they have been 18 months in existence, pay of their audit. Our audit receipts are shown on page 20 of the budget under the head "Fees for Government audits." A large part of these receipts is from Co-operative Societies. This is a department in which we cannot mark time. It goes ahead in spite of budget deficits and other misfortunes. We have to supervise it but we are making the Societies pay more and more. I now ask the Council to vote the full grant of Rs. 19,11,000.

The following amendments were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 2,86,000 under the head '34—Veterinary Charges' be reduced by Rs. 71,550."

Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 2,86,000 under the head '34A.—Veterinary Charges' be reduced by Rs. 40,000."

The members being absent, the following motions standing in their names were deemed to be withdrawn:—

Maulvi EKRAMUL HAQ: "That the demand of Rs. 2,86,000 under the head '34.—Agriculture—Veterinary Charges' be reduced by Re. 1."

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: "That the demand for Rs. 6,200 on account of the salaries of Gazetted Officers under the head '34B.—Agriculture (Superintendence)' be refused."

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 6,200 for the pay of officers in Superintendence under the head "34B (Transferred)" be reduced by Rs. 2,500.

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: On this point it might save time if I explained that there is no such second post as the mover has in mind. As the Hon'ble the Minister has said, it has been withdrawn.

Rai FANINDRALAL De Bahadur: After what Mr. Donovan has said, I beg to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Fanindralal De Bahadur was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 300 for Hill Allowance under the head '34B—Superintendence (Transferred)' be refused."

The members being absent, the following motions standing in their names were deemed to be withdrawn:—

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: "That the demand for Rs. 13,200 on account of the salaries of Deputy Directors of Agriculture under the head '34B.—Agriculture (other supervising staff)' be refused."

Mr. BIJOYPROSAD SINGH ROY: "That the demand for Rs. 13,200 for Deputy Directors under the head '34B.—Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 7,200."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 6,000 for the fourth Deputy Director under the head "34B—Agriculture" be refused.

Sir, in moving this motion, I crave your indulgence for tracing the history and present position of the appoinment of fourth Deputy Director of Agriculture, to bring it home to my colleagues that, however solemnly we may be assured of the best intentions of Government, it is always a safe mentor! Last year, when the demand for the grant was made, the Council was plied with reasoned arguments—which I frankly

admit the Secretariat is a past master in manufacturing—to prove that it was indispensably necessary to split up the western circle comprising the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions and that a Deputy Director was immediately required for the former division. Certainly, the Council was impressed with the force of the argument and voted the necessary grant with alacrity. But no sooner was the grant voted than the urgency of the appointment vanished and the post lay vacant until about the end of the year, when tentative arrangements were made for filling it with a member of the Provincial Service! I would like to know what the views of the Hon'ble the Minister with regard to this point are. We have heard from the Minister that he is going to reduce one post of Superintendent; therefore, he must have his fourth Deputy Director.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI Khan Bahadur: : A word of personal explanation, Sir. I did not speak of one Superintendent, but of some Superintendents.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: By the same argument it may be said that if you reduce the number of District Agricultural Officers, you may have Superintendents, or if you reduce some demonstrators you may have District Agricultural Officers. This arrangement of having a top-heavy administration is absolutely suicidal in the Agricultural Department, where the main work is done in the villages and not at headquarters. Sir, those who have come in touch with the expenses of the Agricultural Farms, know very well how this top-heavy department squanders money. This appointment has not yet been made permanent, so far as I know, and I do not see how this post can be continued to be kept on. I hope, Sir, the Hon'ble the Minister will see his way to abolish it.

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: This is a question on which the Retrenchment Committee have made certain very definite recommendations. Of course, the Retrenchment Committee have not gone into the qualifications of Dr. Gupta, the officer officiating as fourth Deputy Director. Dr. Gupta is a distinguished graduate of a Scottish University in Agriculture or Allied Sciences. We have some other distinguished graduates of the Scottish Universities here and we can judge of the sort of men these Universities turn out; we have two of them at the present moment sitting in front of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta. I would therefore ask the Council in regard to this particular provision for the fourth Deputy Director—the merits and demerits of which I am not going to enter into, because I understood from the beginning that we were not going to enter into the merits and demerits of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee—I would ask the Council to oppose the motion and vote the grant and let Government deal with this question,

as in the case of the other recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Do I understand, Sir, that Government is considering the question of abolishing this post?

Mr. PRESIDENT: No, Mr. Dutt, Mr. Donovan was very definite in his reply.

The motion was then put and lost.

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till 3 P.M. on Monday, the 26th March, 1923, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Monday, the 26th March, 1923, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President in the Chair, the four Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council, the three Hon'ble Ministers, and 94 nominated and elected members.

Starred Questions

(to which oral answers were given).

Sudden illness of Medical College Hospital Nurses.

***LXXVIII. Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to give any definite particulars regarding the unfortunate occurrence that prostrated thirty nurses at the Medical College Hospitals?

(*b*) Is he in a position to contradict or confirm the rumour that their illness was caused by milk being boiled in a copper pot the condition of which was not hygienic?

(*c*) If so, are the medical authorities taking any preventive steps in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): (*a*) The report of the Director of Public Health Laboratory is laid on the Library table.

(*b*) and (*c*) The rumour is false. Aluminium cooking utensils are used and chemical examination revealed no trace of copper.

***LXXIX. Raja MANILOLL SINGH ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many nurses of the Medical College Hospitals have taken ill recently as a result of eating contaminated custard;

(*ii*) what was the cause of the contamination;

(*iii*) who is responsible for the supervision of the nurses' food?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that copper poisoning has been alleged as the cause of the nurses' illness?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble the Minister aware that there is a popular belief that unsuitable food is served to nurses?

(*d*) What is the cost of food per head?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*a*) (*i*) 30.

(*ii*) A toxin in the milk (from bacillus enteriditis or of bacterial origin) which is particularly resistant to heat and was not destroyed by the milk coming to boiling point.

(*iii*) The Lady Superintendent of Nursing and the Home matrons or house-keepers.

(*b*) Yes, but the chemical examination disproved this theory.

(*c*) The Minister has heard rumours to this effect, but to the best of his knowledge these rumours are incorrect.

(*d*) Annas twelve per head per diem.

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Budget arrangements for showing expenditure on Presidency Police and Bengal Police.

453. Mr. W. L. TRAVERS: Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of showing in future budgets the expenditure on the Presidency Police and the Bengal Police under distinct and separate major heads?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. J. Donald): There is no necessity to show this expenditure under distinct and separate major heads, as it is already shown under distinct and separate minor heads, the whole of the expenditure on the Presidency Police being shown under minor head No. 26A, and the expenditure on the Bengal Police under the other minor heads under the major head "26.—Police."

Anti-malarial irrigation and drainage works.

454. SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) what progress has been made in the work of the anti-malarial irrigation and drainage schemes in each district of Bengal;

(*ii*) how much has been spent up to this time in connection with those schemes; and

(*iii*) what other schemes in addition to those in progress are in the hands of the Department in this connection?

The Hon'ble Sir SURENDRA NATH BANERJEA: (*i*) and (*ii*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*iii*) A list is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to clauses (i) and (ii) of unstarred question No. 454.

Scheme.	District.	Progress.	Amount spent up to December, 1922.
			Rs.
Nowi and Sunthi ...	24-Parganas ...	About one-third done.	3,60,044
Anta ...	Howrah ...	About one fifth done	2,04,434
Jaboona II ...	Nadia-Jessore and 24-Parganas	About one tenth done.	1,38,588
Arul Bil ...	Jessore ...	About three-fourths done.	1,87,366
Magrahat ...	24-Parganas ...	Completed ...	25,71,819
Howrah ...	Howrah ...	Ditto ...	3,45,743
Rajapur and Barajolla	Do ...	Ditto ...	12,44,438
Dhankuni ...	Do. ...	Ditto ...	4,11,500
Banka flushing scheme	Burdwan ...	Ditto ...	75,992
Mauikhali ...	24-Parganas ...	Ditto ...	1,98,522
Arapanch ...	Ditto ...	About half done ...	85,750
Baragachi-Madanpur Ultarbagh.	Ditto ...	Completed ...	50,391
Saraswati, Part I ...	Hooghly ...	Ditto ...	1,22,370

List referred to in the reply to clause (iii) of unstarred question No. 454.

The following are the schemes in addition to those mentioned in the statement referred to in the reply to clauses (*i*) and (*ii*):—

Jaboona I	Rasulpur
Anjona	Saraswati II
Harihar-Mukteshwari	Damodar Canal
Kodla-Betna	Selimpur and Bimdual Bils
Jhenidah	[illegible]irah general.

Election of members for Standing Committees and the Public Accounts Committee.

Mr. PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. E. A. Cotton): Hon'ble members are aware that a ballot has been taken for election of members for Standing Committees and for the Public Accounts Committee.

I am having the votes counted and I hope to announce the results during the afternoon.

The Budget for the year 1923-24.

Demands for Grants.

34.—AGRICULTURE.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand for Rs. 47,000 on account of salaries of Gazetted Officers other than Deputy Directors of Agriculture under the head "34B.—Agriculture—Other Supervising Staff" be refused.

There are some who are disposed to regard the Agricultural Department as a white elephant. I do not entirely agree with them. In a mainly agricultural country like India there is a real need for an Agricultural Department. This department does some amount of useful work, but the good which the people derive from it is hardly commensurate with the money spent on it. The total expenditure is nearly Rs. 13,00,000 and the department seems to be run on anything but economic lines. In the higher ranks of this department, there seems to be a superfluity of officers. I do not see the necessity for retaining 15 gazetted officers besides the four deputy directors and two high officers only for the purpose of supervision. This number can safely be reduced without any loss of efficiency. Under the absurd limitations of the present constitution we are not entitled to touch the higher officers of this or any of the other departments or their salaries. We are, therefore, forced to urge reduction of the number of the next lower grades of officers and the curtailment of their salaries. In the present case, therefore, I urge that the services of 12 gazetted officers on the non-voted list be dispensed with.

Babu JATINDRA NATH BASU: I move that the demand for Rs. 4,15,400 under the head "34B.—Agriculture—Other Supervising Staff" be reduced by Rs. 13,200 for pay of officers.

I agree with Dr. Banerjea that we have too many higher officers in the Agricultural Department. These officers are not necessary and I

do not think that we should have so many Deputy Directors of Agriculture. The Agricultural Department has been in existence for some length of time. The public have not yet seen what good this department has done to the country. Those who are interested in the development of agriculture are peasants and cultivators and I do not see how, by appointing Deputy Directors of Agriculture, you could reach the masses. I think it is necessary that we should have more men in the lower ranks of the service instead of the four deputy directors. Sir, we do not know in detail what their duties are. They are being paid very good salaries, but I should like to know what work has been turned out by these men. Out of these four officers two are on the voted list and two on the non-voted. I propose that we should make a cut out of the voted item. The Hon'ble the Minister in charge says that good work is being turned out by them but the records of the department do not show the turning out of any work. I think the Hon'ble the Minister should put down wasteful expenditure with a strong hand and do away with these officers.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand of Rs. 11,26,000 under the head "34B.—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 13,500 for pay of officers.

In spite of the reductions made by the Government on their own initiative and detailed by the Hon'ble the Minister in charge, I beg to move that this demand be reduced by Rs. 10,000, that is to say, by the pay of the Fourth Deputy Director of Agriculture as well as by that of the Second Economic Botanist. Sir, after all that has been said and done for reducing departmental expenditure under this head we see the Agricultural Department continues to be a highly top-heavy department. How top-heavy it is will at once be realized if it is seen that nearly 67 per cent. or two-thirds of the whole expenditure on agriculture proper is swallowed up by superintendence and supervising staff and only 33 per cent. or one-third of the total expenditure is meant for the beneficial activities of the Agricultural Department, viz., for those activities of the department which are the very justification of the department itself. Let there be no mistake, Sir, about what I mean by expenditure on agriculture proper. By expenditure on agriculture proper, I mean, the expenditure that is incurred on superintendence, on supervising staff, on experimental farms, on agricultural experiments, seed-stores and agricultural schools—the expenditure on all these items is what I mean by expenditure on agriculture proper. And I have said already that two-thirds of this expenditure is swallowed up by superintendence and supervising staff and only one-third is left for the beneficial activities of the Agricultural Department. Now let us see how the expenditure has gone on increasing during the last 5 years. We find that in the course of the last five years, i.e., since 1918-19, the cost of superintendence has increased from Rs. 74,000 to Rs. 92,000 and that of the supervising staff

from Rs. 2,74,000 to Rs. 4,74,000, i.e., it has nearly doubled. While the cost of experimental farms has increased only from Rs. 1,76,000 to Rs. 2,02,000, the expenditure on other items has materially declined, as for example, expenditure on agricultural experiments has actually declined from Rs. 67,000 to Rs. 22,000. The expenditure on seed-stores also has declined from Rs. 24,000 to Rs. 15,000, the only redeeming feature in the later budgets of course being a provision for agricultural schools. I therefore maintain that in spite of reductions in expenditure the Agricultural Department continues to be a highly costly and over-staffed and top-heavy department and in that view I propose that the pay of officers be reduced by Rs. 10,000. This covers, as I have said, the pay of two officers, viz., the Fourth Deputy Director and the Second Economic Botanist.

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: I move that the demand of Rs. 2,05,000 for the pay of establishments under the head "34B.—(Transferred)—Other Supervising Staff" be reduced by Rs. 20,000.

I find in the budget of 1922-23, 184 men in the technical staff and in 1923-24 an increase of 54 people. In the same way the number of clerks has been increased from 21 to 26 and that of servants from 55 to 89 in the budget of 1923-24. The other day the Hon'ble the Finance Member gave us an assurance that Government would stop recruitment for some time in order to absorb the retrenched staff. On this ground I beg to move my amendment.

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (Mr. J. T. Donovan): Sir, the Hon'ble the Minister, I doubt not, will deal with some of the criticisms that have been made. But, with his and your permission, I should like to say a few words at this stage. I shall first of all take what Rai Fanindralal De Bahadur has just said. He has charged us with increasing the staff of the department. Sir, I am afraid this is one of those misunderstandings which have been very common in this budget discussion. We are shown as entertaining a staff of 184 men last year and 238 this year. As a matter of fact the 184 should be 187. This was the staff sanctioned for this department in last April. But the Council must not forget that there was a supplementary budget in July last and in that budget they voted an addition of something like 100 men to the staff of the Agricultural Department, of which staff, I may say, we have not added more than 51 up to now. We have appointed 20 District Agricultural Officers and 25 Demonstrators. I think the Council sanctioned very nearly double that number. These officers are already in existence and the figure that the Accountant-General gives us is that of the first of April last. [A voice: But that is not our fault.] Neither is it the fault of the Hon'ble the Minister. It is something like a misprint which gave

rise to these misunderstandings and I have got to explain matters to the House.

Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri has again come forward with a collection of figures. But I am not clear what the date of the first set of figures is. He has taken a certain period and he says that during that period the cost of superintendence has doubled in the department and during a similar period the expenditure on farms and agricultural experiments have not similarly doubled. I do not quite know, as I said, what the date of his first figure is.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: The figures are for the last five years.

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: It is true that in five years the figure on superintendence has doubled. The number of farms has doubled too. Five or six years ago there were six or seven farms but there are 13 farms to-day. Unfortunately, we have not got sufficient money to spend on these farms and the hon'ble member has accused us of having added two or three men to the whole body of superintendence. Then, again, the hon'ble member has included the so-called "Other Superivising Staff." But this staff includes the whole of our Research Staff, which is the most expensive part of our establishment as it is the most necessary part. As a matter of fact we are in danger of losing our Research Staff as they are paid better elsewhere and are being enticed away. I heard the Hon'ble the Minister say, in his budget speech, I think, that the Director of Agriculture has gone away to Australia, where he is being paid a higher salary. Our Agricultural Chemist has an offer of better pay elsewhere at the present moment. Our First Botanist has had half a dozen offers of better employment elsewhere. The fact is we have to pay a large sum not solely for supervision but largely for research work.

Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea has accused us of having 15 gazetted officers in the establishment but, Sir, this comprises the Research Staff and their assistants. Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri wants to remove the Second Botanist. But he does not perhaps remember that this gentleman was deputed, primarily at the instance of this Council, to carry out experiments in regard to cotton growing and cotton seeds. Since then he has practically been wholly employed in this work. His main work is on cotton. I wonder whether Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri wishes us to give up this research in cotton. I think he does not—he shakes his head. Therefore, I trust he will withdraw his motion.

I do not think, Sir, I have anything more to add.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): The provision of Rs. 47,000 on account of salaries of gazetted officers includes 5 Superintendents of Agriculture, 2 Chief

Superintendents of Farms, at Dacca and Chinsura, 3 assistants to the Fibre Expert, Economic Botanist, Agricultural Chemist, Special Officer for Agricultural Education, and the Second Economic Botanist. The 5 Superintendents of Agriculture work directly under the Deputy Directors of Agriculture, and they are exclusively engaged in demonstration and propaganda work, namely, the supervision of khas mahals, court of wards, or private seed farms, seed-stores, demonstration plots, and agricultural associations, co-operative or otherwise. I have under consideration the desirability of limiting the charges of these officers to a small area. They are intended to help the Deputy Directors and their success depends upon honesty and efficiency. It has therefore been decided that no promotion to this grade will be made except in the case of men who are fitted in every way for the responsibility.

The post of Superintendents of Farms at Dacca and Chinsura have only been created after the most careful consideration, and although due deference must be paid to the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, I do not think their proposal to abolish these posts can be accepted. The financial transactions in the farms of which these men have charge are very heavy and it is essential that responsible officers should be in charge, and the two particular officers who hold these posts are very well qualified and their promotion has been thoroughly justifiable.

The assistants to the experts are employed in the experts' laboratories, and they are very necessary. The post of special officer for agricultural education is vacant, and the question of filling it will depend on the extent to which we can carry out the policy of agricultural education. I would ask the Council not to refuse this post in case it be necessary during the coming year to fill it.

Finally, the Second Economic Botanist is at present occupied on a cotton survey and on cotton research, and I am certain the Council do not wish to put an end to this work. As soon as this cotton work is complete, his attention will be devoted to pulses, oil-seeds and grain crops in which the possibilities of improvement are very great indeed. In fact, while he has been working on cotton he has also done some work upon the other crops and we are advised that it would be a great mistake not to retain this post.

The motions were then put and lost.

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: I move that the demand for Rs. 95,000 on account of travelling allowance of the supervising staff under the head "34B.—Agriculture (Transferred)—Other Supervising Staff" be reduced by Rs. 47,500.

It is well-known to this House that of all departments of this Government, the Department of Agriculture is notoriously extravagant in respect of travelling allowance of its officers.

We have found that in some cases officers have drawn in the shape of travelling allowance during a year amounts much in excess of their salaries for the year. What does this indicate? Is this not a means of wasting public money? I regret, Sir, that our cries in this respect have fallen on deaf ears in the past.

At first sight the provision appears to be out of all proportion. The total salary of the gazetted officers is Rs. 1,21,800 and that of other staff including clerks and servants is Rs. 2,05,000. Many of the latter do not make any tour and yet travelling allowance is fixed at Rs. 95,000. I do not like to repeat the complaints of the public about the activities of this department. They are well known to us.

I give only one instance to show to what extent the public derive any benefit out of this department. Only a few months ago I went to the Seed Store at Chittagong and inquired if I could get any good vegetable seeds there. I was told that there was in stock a collection of very good brinjal seeds of the big *Muktakeshi* type. I purchased a packet of seeds and had them planted. I was watching the progress and took particular care that the plants come out well. I soon found to my surprise that many of the plants were of chillies and not brinjals, and like the mountain in labour producing a mouse these plants produced chillies instead of brinjals!

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: On a point of order, Sir, these chillies, I submit, have nothing to do with travelling allowances.

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: I am only citing this as an example when referring to the seed stores.

Mr. PRESIDENT: We do not want to hear anything about seed stores now. You can establish your point when discussing the details of seed stores. At present we are engaged in discussing travelling allowances of Agricultural officers.

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: We have often heard complaints, and that with some justification, that the department cannot show good work for want of funds. I quite admit that this is a pertinent objection. Whatever may be the provision made for this department the bulk of the money is swept away by the salaries of its officers and their travelling allowances. My suggestion, therefore, is that the extravagant system of travelling charges incurred by the officers of the department be altered and the saving utilised in real work of an educative nature. I repeat again that my objection is not to cripple the department but to have real work out of the money spent out of the public exchequer.

I hope that the committee that will investigate the question of travelling allowances would carefully scrutinize the charges under this head and will succeed in reducing them to a minimum.

Rai [illegible]NDRALAL DE Bahadur: Having regard to the announcement made by the Hon'ble the Finance Member, I beg leave to withdraw the motions standing in my name.

The following motions were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn :—

"That the demand of Rs. 95,000 for the travelling allowance of the supervising staff, under the head '34B.—(Transferred)' be reduced by Rs. 20,000."

"That the demand of Rs. 45,000 for contingencies in other supervising staff under the head '34B.—(Transferred)' be reduced by Rs. 10,000."

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: I must say at the outset that we realize that the Agricultural Department has no better friend than Rai Upendra Lal Ray Bahadur and that nobody in this Council or outside it takes more interest in the work of this department than my hon'ble friend. We realize that everything that he has said, even including that reference to chillies, is meant for the good of this department. We realize that the travelling expenses of this department during past years have been the subject of talk in Bengal and during the last year or two every effort has been made to check abuses in regard to travelling allowances. The Council is aware of the announcement by the Finance Member about the pruning knife to be applied to travelling allowances, and I would ask the Council to await the decision of the Finance Department as I expect the Agricultural Department will give loyal obedience to the orders they receive.

The motion of Rai Upendra Lal Ray Bahadur was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion standing in the name of Professor S. C Mukherji was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn :—

"That the demand of Rs. 4,15,400 under the head '34B.—Agricultural —Other Supervising Staff' be reduced by Re. 1."

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: I move that the demand for Rs. 8,000 under the head "34.—Agriculture—(Transferred)—Experimental Farms—Clerks" be reduced by Rs. 1,080.

I find from the budget estimate that the number of supervising officers remains the same for the next year, 25 this year and 25 next year, but the number of clerks has been increased from 16 to 20. I do not understand the object of increasing the number of clerks. I understand that one of these four clerks is a fieldman. I do not wish to stand in the way of appointing him, but I do object to the three clerks who are proposed to be appointed in addition to the existing staff. I therefore propose that the demand for Rs. 8,000 be reduced by Rs. 1,080 which represents the pay of these three clerks.

The following motion was ruled out of order as no specific cut was mentioned:—

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 3,200 under the head '34B.—Agriculture—(Transferred)—Experimental Farms' be reduced to the extent of the pay of six extra servants."

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 1,60,700 for contingencies under the head '34B.—Experimental Farms (Transferred)' be reduced by Rs. 40,000."

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: The four extra clerks referred to in the motion are for the farms at Mymensingh, Barisal, and Comilla, and one fieldman at the Bankura farm. This fieldman is essentially necessary and he has already been employed. The other three clerks have not yet been taken on and to this extent I am prepared to accept the motion.

The following amended motion was then put and agreed to.

"That the demand for Rs. 8,000 under the head '34B.—Agriculture (Transferred)—Experimental Farms—Clerks' be reduced by Rs. 1,080."

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 13,000 on account of travelling allowance for the Sericulture Department under the head '34.—Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 6,500."

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand for Rs. 2,20,000 under the head "34B.—Agriculture—Sericulture" be reduced by Rs. 6,000.

Let me tell you at the outset that this has reference to the pay of the Deputy Director of Sericulture. Before the appointment of the Deputy Director of Sericulture in 1921, the Sericulture Department used to be supervised by the Director of Agriculture. Since that time the staff of Deputy Directors has been strengthened and also two Superintendents have been appointed in the Sericulture Department. As we all know, there is also an expert in sericulture. I therefore submit that there is no necessity for the post of a Deputy Director of Sericulture, and in that view I propose to reduce the demand by Rs. 6,000 which represents the pay of the Deputy Director of Sericulture.

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: This Department of Sericulture is a very technical and a remunerative department. We get a very large income from this department, but unfortunately, for the sake of another Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 20,000, we had to sacrifice a considerable amount of further possible income. Now it is a very technical department. I do not know whether the Council wishes me to enter into the details

of sericulture, and I do not think I should be capable of doing so, but I hope the Council will accept from me that it is a very technical department. We have, I think, 14 nurseries in the province at which seeds and cocoons are produced and sold to the people. These nurseries are scattered so as to meet the requirements of the people of those places where silk is produced, and many technical details, for instance, even the date on which the worm begins to spin, have to be arranged to suit the different places. Now these technical details require considerable supervision. We cannot leave them in the hands of men who are drawing Rs. 50 or Rs. 100 a month or something like that. We want a trained technical man in charge of them.

Sericulture has little or nothing to do with agriculture. It is not an agricultural subject except in the matter of growing mulberry: the actual cocoon work is by no means agricultural, and that is the reason why we want a man who is specially skilled in sericulture. And it is very expensive to get an expert of that kind. We have to appoint a man trained in France or Japan. At present the man we have was trained in France. We cannot get a man like that unless we pay at least Rs. 500 or Rs. 600 and that is what we are paying the Deputy Director. I trust the Council is satisfied that an officer of this kind is necessary.

The motion was then put and lost.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 1,49,600 for Botanical and other public gardens under the head "34B.—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 100.

It will be evident from the small amount that I propose to cut that I have no quarrel with the Botanical Gardens, but I should like to ask the Hon'ble the Minister what has been done about the proposal that was made nearly two years ago for transferring the management of the Botanical Gardens to the hands of the Imperial Government. A definite proposal was placed before the Standing Committee of Agriculture nearly two years ago, and if I am not much mistaken, the Hon'ble the Minister took up the subject and a suggestion was made that the cost of the whole management of the Shibpur Botanical Gardens should be placed in the hands of the Imperial Government. If this is so, then in these days of difficulty, the provincial revenue may be saved of Rs. 1,00,000. I should like to know what has been done about this matter.

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: The proposal that the Botanical Gardens should be taken over from the Government of Bengal originated, I believe, from the Government of India. As a matter of fact, we cannot make the transfer; it is the Government of India that must do it. For some reason or other—possibly because the Government of India is in financial difficulties with which we can sympathize—they appear for the present to have put off their idea of taking over these gardens, but

as soon as an opportunity arises we may again perhaps draw their attention to the subject.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: If the Hon'ble the Minister will remind the Government of India again and again, I shall withdraw my motion.

Mr. PRESIDENT: He has given you an undertaking, but you cannot expect him to *takid* the Government of India every day.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I move that the demand for Rs. 11,26,000 under the head " 34B.—Agriculture " be reduced by Rs. 1,50,000.

I have two submissions before the Council—first with regard to the Agricultural policy that has been adopted by Government. I consider that that policy is not satisfactory.

The country should not grudge any expenditure under this particular head if the activities of the Department of Agriculture were not mostly confined to spheres of its own choice.

Now, Bengal is an agricultural country; the majority of its people live on agriculture and the question of unemployment is daily assuming a graver aspect. To meet the difficulty of the situation the country, and we, the representatives of the people, must help whole-heartedly in the development of agriculture. The Department of Agriculture exists for this purpose. Does it serve the purpose? Will examinations of qualities of a particular kind of paddy, jute, sugarcane or cotton satisfy the Bengal agriculturists and other people who live on agriculture? Traditions of the country, characteristics of the agricultural population, have been ignored and an agricultural department on Western methods costing lakhs of public revenue, year after year, has been transplanted on the soil of Bengal: the result has been extremely disappointing.

Inquiries under the direction of the Government of Bihar and Orissa into the method of agricultural education and training imparted in the existing agricultural institutions in Bihar, where Bengal students were also admitted for training, have brought to light the patent fact that the present system of agricultural training on Western methods has proved valueless, and the abolition of at least one of the colleges has been recommended. And the Government have accepted the recommendation. Comment on this will be superfluous. But the fact of this situation ought to prove an eye-opener to those who are enthusiastic over the official method of conducting the operations of the Agricultural Department. These enthusiasts would also do well to examine and note the financial results of the working of demonstration farms which are in existence for years past. It can be safely said that these demonstration farms would have proved paying and profitable if they were worked

by actual agriculturists who know better of their art than the highly paid officials of the Agricultural Department and the whole host of so-called demonstrators. It is time to insist on a stock-taking of the activities and achievements of our Agricultural Department and see if the result has been commensurate with the expenditure incurred. The Department of Agriculture requires more efficient demonstrators than supervising officers, directors and deputy directors. But has anybody cared to inquire into the question of educational and other qualifications of our agricultural demonstrators as well as to the question of their actual efficiency and real aptitude for the work they are expected to do? The result of an inquiry into these points will prove interesting reading. I contend that the demonstration should be on commercial lines.

What is essentially necessary is the organization of small agricultural farms in suitable centres on a commercial basis and to prove to those actually engaged in agriculture and also those who are bent upon making agriculture the means of their livelihood that agricultural operations can be carried on on commercial lines. But curiously enough this important and most essential aspect of the whole question has been ignored. No wonder that the department, with its unlimited number of officials of all grades, has altogether failed to secure the approbation of the agricultural population and the general public.

Now regarding the motion which I have submitted for the consideration of the Council it appears that the Retrenchment Committee has recommended a net reduction of Rs. 2,83,000. While disagreeing with the recommendation of the Committee for the appointment of a Development Officer on high salary, I ask the Council to reduce the budgeted grant for the department by Rs. 1,50,000 only. And I am definitely of opinion that this reduction can be effected by the abolition of one or more posts of deputy directors, and by reductions under the following heads of expenditure budgeted for the ensuing year:—

(*a*) Technical staff; (*b*) temporary establishment Rs. 10,000; (*c*) travelling allowance, Rs. 95,000; (*d*) house rent and other allowance, Rs. 10,000; (*e*) contingent charges, Rs. 45,000; (*f*) other charges Rs. 1,00,000; and (*g*) provision for establishment of five new farms, Rs. 1,60,700.

It is noteworthy that while there were 184 members of the technical staff on Rs. 250 and less in 1922-23, their number has been increased and going to be further increased to 238 during the ensuing year. This shows the temper of the authorities of the department. Circumstances which have necessitated this increase of staff ought to be explained in detail. We also want to know where the five prospective farms are to be located and whether Western Bengal districts will enjoy the privilege of getting one or more farms out of this five. Representatives of the people in this Council will be altogether failing in their duty if they

do not enter an united protest against the way in which public revenue is spent by the authorities of the department. It is a curious phase of our administration that more money is spent in salaries, travelling, contingencies, and other expenses, than in helping the actual development of agriculture in the country. A democratic Government ought to give the go-bye to the old method of spending public revenues. The period of experiment must be a reasonable period and ought not to be so long as has been the case with the agricultural and some other departments of the Government. We want actual workers, earnest workers, enthusiasts in the development of agriculture and not *Hakims* and *Huzoors*. We have enough and more than enough of them in all other departments of the Government. Much money is being injudiciously spent in the fruitless task by the Agricultural Department, and I submit that the Council should insist on a change of financial policy of the department. I now confidently hope that the Council will solidly vote on my motion for reduction of Rs. 1,50,000 only from the budgeted grant of Rs. 12,96,000. Rs. 11,46,000 will prove more than sufficient for the department, if only judicious care is taken in spending public revenues.

Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: I move that the demand for Rs. 11,26,000 under the head "34B.—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000.

I beg to remind the House that this department of agriculture was created with a view to improve the agricultural prospects of the country and to introduce improved methods of agriculture; later on, research work was added to it. This demand for the improved system of agriculture did not come from the cultivators, but these were entirely the creation of the Government. Since the last fifteen years, expenditure has gradually increased enormously in this department, but the benefits received has never been in the same proportion. To improve our agricultural conditions, we do not want mere statements or theories which the cultivators of Bengal will not be able to utilize but what we require is active persuasion and demonstration in the fields of the actual cultivators, which the department has failed to launch upon on an extensive scale. The supervising staff of this department is very heavy. One director with the help of two assistant directors ought to be able to manage the work. I remarked in the last year that for agricultural purposes there would be no necessity for the adoption of the administrative units and I find that the Retrenchment Committee has also accepted this view. Higher educational institutions for agricultural purposes are unnecessary as only the other day I found in the newspapers that the Agricultural Institute at Pusa had been closed. For the secondary agricultural education, the Institute at Dacca alone may be sufficient for the purpose of training demonstrators of the province. Again, the elementary agricultural schools are unnecessary. I remarked in my note last year, that special education will

not be necessary for the sons of our cultivators. I find that the Retrenchment Committee has also endorsed this view. I quite agree that this department can be linked up with the Department of Co-operative Credit because, I consider that the two heads will not be required. I, therefore, ask the Hon'ble the Minister to reorganize the department to meet the real requirements keeping in mind that most of the holdings of the cultivators are small in area, and the real cultivators are conservative with a fair knowledge of agricultural works done by their forefathers. To improve these, we are in need of propaganda and proper demonstrations before the eyes of the cultivators themselves, and not higher research and education. I, therefore, suggest to abolish some of the higher posts. In these days of retrenchment, when all the departments are restricting their activities, new creation on any ground whatsoever should not be allowed. I am, therefore, really surprised to find the proposal for the appointment of 54 more men in the technical staff. May I ask the Hon'ble the Minister to state for what work they are going to be appointed? I, on the other hand, think the actual number of last year, namely, 184, is too much. I suggest to reduce this by a decent number, say at least by 34; and so to make a saving of the amount of Rs. 64,800, calculating at the rate of a little more than Rs. 150 a month per man. The proposal for the appointment of a gazetted officer on Rs. 552 a month for six months should be dropped and thus make a saving of Rs. 3,312. In the temporary establishment, only Rs. 2,000 should be granted which is the revised estimate of this year and thus save Rs. 3,000. If we abolish the two posts of deputy directors, a saving at least of Rs. 1,100 a month or Rs. 13,200 per year can be made. I also propose to reduce the number of the gazetted officers from 15 to 13 and thus to save Rs. 9,840, calculating at the rate of Rs. 410 a month for one man. If the number of officers decrease their travelling allowance will also decrease as a matter of course. I therefore suggest to reduce the amount provided for under travelling allowance by Rs. 3,000. With this, if we reduce some of the clerks only pensioning off the senior hands and making no provision for new appointments, a saving to the amount of Rs. 3,000 can be made. Thus my total reduction amounts to Rs. 1,00,152 or in round number Rs. 1,00,000, which the House, I suppose, will agree to accept.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I support this motion which also stands in my name. I take it, Sir, that the Agricultural Department was created for the good of the people of Bengal. If that is so, then I should like to know what work this department has been able to do for the last 10 years. When I criticize the department I hope the Hon'ble the Minister will not think that I only criticize his two years' work. I shall criticize the whole past work and find out whether the Hon'ble the Minister has revised any of the work that has been found to be wanting or adopted any new policy for the furtherance of the object for which this department was created. Now to give an instance of the mentality which

delights in the increase of the number of posts in the superior service, I will quote one example. Well, Sir, in August last, a supplementary budget was presented before this Council asking for a Fifth Deputy Director. The recommendation of the Director of Agriculture was that two more deputy directors were urgently needed. That is in the report of the Agricultural Department for the year 1920-21. Two more deputy directors were urgently needed, and as a consequence of this urgent necessity, the proposal was brought forward before this Council asking for the creation of a Fifth Deputy Director. Now, Sir, many of us, in this Council at once jumped on that proposal and sent in motions for refusal. When the Hon'ble the Minister found that there was so much opposition, he coolly withdrew the proposal and said that he would wait for the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee regarding deputy directors.

Now I ask very seriously how a post, which is urgently needed for the department, can be withdrawn at a moment's notice. Surely the necessity could not be very urgent, but this is the manner how posts are created in this department. There are now five superintendents, one for each division; then there are 39 upper subordinates, and, I believe, there are 137 demonstrators. I, for myself, do not know what these demonstrators demonstrate, because, as a matter of fact, there are only 12 agricultural farms where the actual work of demonstration is conducted. These demonstrators are more or less seed distributors. That is the practical work they do. Two years ago I put a question to the Hon'ble the Minister asking whether any of these farms had been able to bear its own cost. He said "No" but he also said that he would try and see that some of them at least were run on business lines. To-day, after 2½ years, I ask him—is there any single demonstration farm in the whole of Bengal which it has been possible to run on business lines? Is it not a fact that the actual cost of running these farms is extravagant in comparison with the price of the produce of the farms? Unless the agriculturist and the people of this province saw with their own eyes that farms could be run on business lines, I do not think that they would ever be tempted to take the advice of this department.

Then, Sir, the Agricultural Department has undertaken to do a thing which I cannot for the life of me understand, and it is the question of the jute forecast. Every year in the jute season we find these demonstrators going about and officers of other departments are also found touring at that time; and jute forecasts are prepared, but may I ask who are benefited by these forecasts, whether the jute merchants or jute cultivators?

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: May I rise to a point of order? The jute forecast has already been given up.

Mr. PRESIDENT: There has been a great deal of repetition for some time past. These items have been already dealt with.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: If I am to discuss the policy, I have to dwell on these things.

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: There is no provision for this in the budget; so, it is not a case of reduction.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Two years ago this Council passed a resolution that the prices of jute in foreign countries should be circulated among the agriculturists. May I ask the Hon'ble the Minister what steps he has taken to do that? Then, Sir, there is provision for the Rangpur Cattle Breeding Farm. I believe that this farm has been working for the last ten years and it has come to no sort of conclusion how cattle breeding should be effected. After ten years, we find a recommendation that the result has not been so successful as might have been expected, and last year there was a proposal before this Council that we should have a cattle breeding expert brought from somewhere. Now, I ask, is it a businesslike proposition that a cattle breeding farm should be allowed to go on for ten years on some sort of vague ideas without having a cattle breeding expert at all? Therefore I say, that there was no definite policy hitherto, on which the farm was run and the cattle breeding experiment was absolutely valueless. So, I suggest that whenever this department launches on any work, they should have a cut and dried scheme and see beforehand on what lines they are proceeding. In Rangpur we have also a dairy farm and I am afraid that the result of the dairy farm has been also as valueless as the cattle breeding farm and we find that the Director of Agriculture admits lack of knowledge of the principles of the dairy farm as well as of the cattle breeding farm.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: It is not in the budget.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: You will find this in the report. Of late, we have been hearing of Agricultural Associations being formed all over the country on co-operative lines. Except the Birbhum Association, I should like to ask the Hon'ble the Minister whether the department has been able to stimulate any real development in this direction? As far as my information goes, it has not done so. Unless this department can really induce the people of the country to take an active part in the successful working of the results achieved by this department, I am afraid that the effect of the work will be nil. The people are disappointed at the work done in the department and they are not taking as much interest in these associations as they might and should have done. I request the Hon'ble the Minister to revise the policy of his department and to take up the demonstration and experimental work on such lines as might show to the people that real development of agriculture may be effected by following the principles suggested by this department.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: In view of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, I beg to move——

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not understand your formula—"in view of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee"—because we have heard that the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee are going to be considered by Government and a report presented in July. As regards this item, you can move a reduction, but you do not move it in view of the recommendations of anybody.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move formally that the demand for Rs. 11,26,000 under the head "34B.—Agriculture" be reduced by Rs. 93,800.

It is no reply to say that the Council voted for a large increase of staff in July or August. The question is whether by way of retrenchment this reduction is possible or not.

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Surendra Narayan Sinha was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 11,26,000 under the head '34B.—Agriculture' be reduced to Rs. 10,50,000."

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: I move that the demand of Rs. 11,26,000 under the head "34.—Agriculture" be reduced by Re. 1.

I hope that it will not be understood by the House that I am for reduction of the demand which aims at improving the condition of the agriculturists. I do not know if the House realize that the agriculturists are not only the backbone of the country but also the backbone of Government, and it is absolutely necessary that Government should take pains to see that the condition of these people is improved. But what I say is this: that the Department of Agriculture is at the present moment inclined to be a top-heavy department and as a result of that real benefit is seldom done to the agriculturists. What seems to be necessary are not so many officers at the top who would run from one place to another and then run back to their headquarters, but persons who are in touch with the people themselves and who are glad to impart to them the knowledge they had derived by experiments. So, instead of having these highly paid officers, it seems to be necessary that the Government should have experts who will experiment at agricultural farms and make known the results of the experiments to the people. This should be done not by means of the Deputy Directors of Agriculture or by Superintendents or by District Officers, but by persons who are directly in touch with the people themselves. They may be styled demonstrators or anything of that sort. I am afraid that some of my friends here in the Council, for

instance, Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Roy Bahadur and Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta have said that there is not much necessity for demonstrators. It might be that there is no necessity for demonstrators of the present type, but demonstrators who have got knowledge of agriculture are absolutely necessary for the people. What we find is this: that these officers, no matter even if they are supervisors, cannot and do not come in contact with the people; they go from one place to another, but if persons who are agriculturists themselves and who have knowledge of agriculture are taken into Government service, then they will be the right sort of persons who can be of benefit to the agriculturists. They will move with the people and tell them just what is to their interest. So what I suggest is this that Government will do very well to take pains to see that such men who are agriculturists themselves should form the major portion of the Agricultural Department. I am informed that in America the Government do not employ experts from outside, but men who have got sufficient knowledge of agriculture and who have improved their own farms. It is they who are taken in the department and it is from their knowledge that the State derives a good deal of benefit. It may be said on behalf of Government that the Government started with agricultural farms here and there, but it has been pointed out by my friend, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, that these agricultural farms have not been of much benefit to the people. What we find is this: that the Government spend a lot of money for a poor return and that there is no incentive to the agriculturists to take up the method adopted by the agricultural farms. If you take any particular farm, it is quite likely that you will find that Rs. 10,000 has been spent to get a small return. The highly paid officers maintained by the department and their expenses are not counted in the expenditure that is incurred in producing the better crop. What is necessary under such circumstances is this that the demonstrators should demonstrate not in their farms, i.e., in the farms maintained by Government, but that they should carry all the information and knowledge derived from experiments of experts to the agriculturists and induce them to try the better method and as soon as the agriculturists can find that they can get by the adoption of the improved method crops of better quality and greater quantity, then they will take to it immediately. Government will in that way produce the result so earnestly hoped for.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand for Rs. 16,66,960 under the head "34B.—Agriculture" for items other than travelling allowance be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000.

In moving this amendment, I wish to bring to the notice of the House certain proposals as regards the policy of the Agricultural Department. I suggest that money should be saved here for spending it in other directions which may benefit the tenant class, i.e., agriculturists. It is an

admitted fact that the experimental farms are of not much use and money should not be wasted, I think, by starting more experimental farms or by holding exhibitions which cannot be of great use to the real agriculturists. I do not agree with my friend, Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Roy Bahadur, that agricultural schools are not necessary. I think that the spread of agricultural education is very necessary. I mean by education not only book learning, not only theoretical training but also practical training. What I suggest is this: that more demonstration farms should be started, one at least in each police-station so that the agriculturists' sons may go there and see how agriculture can be made to profit the agriculturists. In experimental farms some experiments are simply held in one bigha or a few cottas of land and on that generalizations are made, but that is not the thing that we want. There, a heavy expenditure is incurred for the work of supervision, but my idea is this: that if the people can be made to see how agriculture can be made to profit the agriculturists, then the real education will be imparted which will benefit the agriculturists most. So we have often suggested that instead of starting experimental farms, there should be more demonstration farms, but I am sorry that that has not been done yet. Three things are necessary: the spread of agricultural education, better methods of agriculture to be demonstrated by experiments in demonstration farms, and the supply of money to the indebted agriculturists. Demonstrators have no doubt been appointed but they are of no use to the cultivators. They go to certain cultivators for supplying seeds and showing something or asking them to try one method or other in their lands. This is often tried on a small area of one bigha or a few cottas. It is well-known that our agriculturists are not educated at all; they are very conservative in their ideas. If they are taught how agriculture can be improved, it will do them real good and also in this connection it is necessary to make a better provision for irrigation or for the supply of water. Ample water is collected during the rainy season, but after the rainy season everything is drained off. If the water can be preserved by pumping or some such arrangement whenever there is any scarcity of water or whenever drought is apprehended, much good can be done by supplying water, but no such thing we see is done by the Agricultural Department. These things ought to be done. The other day a very thoughtful article was published in the *Nineteenth Century* by our ex-Governor Lord Ronaldshay. There he suggests that there is a great possibility for developing the resources of India and by agriculture much can be done. He recognizes that the conservatism of the agriculturists has to be avoided. These things ought to be tried by the Agricultural Department. It is not by wasting money in holding exhibitions or starting more experimental farms that the requirements of the situation will be met. Now my friend, Mr. Donovan, will bear me out. He is well acquainted with the actual state of things in Barind. He knows what incalculable benefit can be done to the agriculturists if money can be supplied to them by

co-operative methods. If the Department of Agriculture were to be amalgamated with the Department of Co-operative Societies, apart from the question of saving this combination will be of great help to the agriculturists and Mr. Donovan will be of use to them. By starting co-operative ganja societies, Naogaon has benefited much. Just as we have ganja societies, we may also have societies started to help cultivators of jute in every district; the export may also be controlled to a certain extent and the cultivators may also be helped by advances.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Please do not deal with the Co-operative Credit Societies; we will come to that later on.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I only show that in this way the department can do real good to the people. I think that a lakh could be saved in the general administration of these two departments and that out of the savings these things might be attempted. It is in this view that I bring forward this motion.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: I am opposed to any reduction whatever in the budget grant for agriculture, but I support the amendment of Maulvi Ekramul Huq who has suggested to reduce the budget grant by one rupee only. My object is not to reduce the grant, but to express my opinion on the policy followed by the Department of Agriculture. It appears that there are very highly paid officers in the department for the development of agriculture, but I find that the result is not a satisfactory one. Notwithstanding the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, the number of Deputy Directors of Agriculture has not been reduced and I find that the number of clerks has been reduced from 26 to 21 and that the number of officers of the technical department from 184 to 138.

Mr. PREBIDENT: It is very unfortunate—and I suppose it is more or less inevitable—but the points you are raising have been dealt with and explained. It is no use repeating them again. They have all been dealt with on those individual amendments and replied to.

Babu AMULYA DHONE ADDY: I am sorry. I find that the number of gazetted officers has been increased from 15 to 17 and one of them is drawing a high salary of Rs. 1,800 a month. It appears that the suggestion of this Council has been ignored by the Department of Agriculture, because two years ago, on my suggestion, the Council was kind enough to resolve that the number of agricultural schools with agricultural farms attached to them should be increased and that there should be an agricultural school with a farm attached to it in every district, but I find that only Rs. 30,000 has been provided for that purpose. As regards the pay of the establishment of the teaching staff for agricultural education not for one school or two, but for all the schools of Bengal, there is a provision

of only Rs. 8,300. So, the suggestion of this Council appears to have been ignored by Government and the number of gazetted officers has, on the contrary, been increased. I do not think that the money is being fully utilized for the purpose, viz., the encouragement of agricultural education and the development of agriculture, with a view to reduce the prices of food grains.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: At first I thought that I should not associate myself with the debate on these motions because I thought that each of the items would be taken up separately and discussed. In fact the total amount which is sought to be reduced is made up of several items which have been separately discussed and the Council has already decided whether these reductions can be safely made, but as soon as I found that the policy of agriculture was being discussed I thought it my duty to speak out what I feel on this particular question. It is known to everybody that any agricultural policy in the country must be for the benefit of the agriculturists, i.e., the people themselves. There are two ways of carrying out this policy. We all know that one way is what is called the policy of extensive cultivation and the other is the policy of intensive cultivation. This House seems to be divided on the question. Raja Lalit Mohan Singh Roy seemed to suggest——

Mr. S. M. BOSE: May I rise to a point of order? He is only a Rai Bahadur and not a Raja.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: The Rai Bahadur seemed to point out that our agricultural holdings are small holdings and so he thought that extensive cultivation would not be beneficial to the people of Bengal. The Rai Bahadur further suggested that the people of Bengal knew perhaps by inheritance or by intuition how agriculture should be carried on. Therefore, he was not in favour of agricultural schools, but Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri said that that could not be, and that we must have agricultural schools: in fact the knowledge which our raiyats possessed was not sufficient for improving agriculture and therefore agricultural education was necessary. Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta seemed to suggest that the extensive policy, or rather the policy of extensive cultivation was to be applied to India.

[At this stage the Hon'ble the President left the Chamber and Mr. Deputy-President took the Chair.]

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: May I rise to offer a personal explanation? I never said anything of the sort. I only said that the way of development adopted by the Department of Agriculture did not appeal to the people at all.

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: I thought, from what my hon'ble brother said in this Council, namely, that agricultural farms should be run on such a basis, that they should be self-supporting so that other people may

take up the example and may start agricultural farms. Now, from that I was under the impression that he was in favour of having agricultural farms in Bengal. If that is not his intention, then I do not quarrel with him. If his object is not to have extensive cultivation by the establishment of agricultural farms, I am of the same opinion with him, because we all know that if we adopt the policy of extensive cultivation, if we introduce the big farms, we allow capitalism to enter into agriculture. That means we would be practically converting our agriculturists into agricultural labourers. I would strongly oppose any policy of Government which would have the tendency of converting the agriculturists into agricultural labourers, and when Indu Bhushan Dutta suggested that there ought to be agricultural farms, I had this apprehension in my mind that that policy might lead to the conversion of agriculturists into agricultural labourers. But as he has said that that was not his intention, I think I ought not to quarrel with him so far as this matter is concerned.

Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Roy Bahadur has said that our holdings are very small holdings, and therefore, it should be our attempt to improve agriculture, to increase the quantity of agricultural produce by intensive cultivation. Now, if we are to do this, what should be the policy of Government? To my mind it appears that the policy should be to devise means by which raiyats can have the largest quantity of agricultural produce by the application of scientific principles or by finding out the best seeds and also by providing the best method of supplying manure, water-supply, and other things. Therefore, in order to find out such things some amount of expert knowledge, some amount of research work would be necessary, and that is really the policy of the Government. Whatever may have been the policy of the old Government regarding agriculture, I find from the several *communiqués* issued by the department as well as from the several speeches delivered by the Hon'ble the Minister that his policy was to find out for the purposes of intensive cultivation the best method of increasing agricultural produce, and our Hon'ble Minister seems to be of opinion that we must find out by research work what kind of seed would suit our land best, then to apply the result of that research to different districts, and then also to find out the particular seeds which would suit the particular kinds of soil in this particular province. All these things certainly require research work. You cannot expect laymen to be able to find out seeds or to find out means which would help our raiyats in producing the largest quantity of produce. The quantity as well as the quality of the produce have got to be improved, and therefore, also, we require research work. But certainly by this I do not mean that as soon as the research work has been done, the Agricultural Department is to sit idle with folded hands. The fruits of the research must reach the raiyats and that can only be done by experiment and propaganda work. There is some force in the suggestion

of some of the members of this Council that the department is being carried on on a top-heavy basis. Certainly it is desirable that the fruits of the research must be demonstrated to the actual cultivators, and until and unless that is done, mere research work would be of no use for the good of the province. We all know, as some of the members have pointed out, that formerly the task of the demonstrators, and to a certain extent even now, is to distribute seeds. Most of these demonstrators were were recruited not from the agricultural class, not from the sons of the cultivators, but from the middle class. When they cannot secure any clerkship or any other post, they get an appointment in the Agricultural Department, with the result that they do not like to mix with the cultivators of the soil, they do not like to till the plough. Our Hon'ble the Minister after assuming his office, I understand, has issued definite orders that the recruitment of demonstrators must be mostly from the sons of the cultivators. I think that is a move in the right direction. It is the sons of the cultivators who must be trained so that they may go and mix with the cultivators, take the plough in their own hands and demonstrate the results of then research themselves. I think in that way our Minister has departed from the old policy of recruitment of demonstrators. It would further appear that our Hon'ble the Minister has also decided that this demonstration work should be carried on in every village if possible. Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, I think, has suggested that there should be a demonstration centre in each thana and I think, if I remember aright, that this Council has already passed a resolution, authorizing the Hon'ble the Minister to establish demonstration centres in each thana and for that a certain amount of money has been voted. In fact, the very thing wanted by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri has already been accepted by the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Agriculture. Therefore, if once this House decides in favour of intensive cultivation, it cannot be said that the policy which is being pursued by our Minister for Agriculture, is not a good policy and is not for the welfare of the people. The only complaint that is made now is that there are a large number of highly paid officials at the top who are not doing much work and that their number should be decreased so that this amount may go to increase the number of demonstrators. If it was possible at this particular stage to dismiss all these agricultural officers with an assurance that as soon as the Minister would be able to supply us with a sufficient number of demonstrators, he would get them at once, I think the Hon'ble the Minister would have done so; but it is apparent that after two years' training—I think the demonstrators have already begun their training—he will find a large number of real demonstrators not in name but real demonstrators who will demonstrate the results of research and experiment. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary now that this research department must go on. Of course, I would appeal to the Hon'ble the Minister to consider that this should be done on as economical lines as possible.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: Agriculture is a subject of the greatest importance to Bengal which is mainly an agricultural country. Rs. 11,00,000 for the Agricultural Department, is, to my mind, a very insignificant sum. There are, I know, a certain class of members here who think that improved agriculture on scientific methods is not required in this country. There must be such men everywhere and I do not wish to discuss the matter with them. Then, it is said that the officers, the experts of the Agricultural Department, are paid too much. The fact is that we have not got any proper experts here in Bengal. A proper scientific expert we have not got. Therefore, to say that the salaries are too much is absurd.

Next, Sir, I must say that there has been some loose talk about extensive and intensive cultivation. The opposite of intensive is not extensive. Intensive has its meaning. I never heard of such a thing as extensive cultivation in the sense used as not needed. When it is intended to say that large farms are not required in this country, I join issue. Large farms are of supreme importance in this country. Without large farms agricultural improvements are not possible. There is no scope for the use of agricultural machinery, for the application of great experiments in agriculture except in large farms; agricultural farms on a large scale are necessary; they lead to the wealth of the country. That is what has made the United States what it is. Of course, it must be remembered that intensive cultivation in small agricultural farms in France has made France a very rich country. Both are necessary. The systems of America, United States, Canada, as well as France are necessary. So it is not right to say that one should be entirely neglected and should not occupy the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge. I shall, therefore, ask every member here to remember that we should not cut one pice from the agricultural grant. It is necessary that this agricultural grant should be increased at least four to five times if Bengal is to get on. If it is not well managed now, it must be well managed hereafter. But if you cut down the grant now, it will be very difficult to increase the grant hereafter. Now, having said all these, I must draw the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister to one fact. It was some two years ago I suppose, I moved a motion or asked a question, to which a favourable reply was given, demanding that farms on a commercial scale showing that profit could be made out of them should be established in some parts of Bengal. The Minister accepted my suggestion and said that he would do so. I am sorry to say that he has not done so. We want to know whether farms run on scientific lines might be profitable; that has not been demonstrated to us; I am perfectly sure that it can be demonstrated. It has been demonstrated in other countries and it can be demonstrated in this country also. Once that is done, people will leave their literary pursuits and will take to agriculture. Unfortunately, people go and take to agricultural pursuits and fail; that is a thing which is very much disappointing. I therefore submit that that matter should be kept in

mind by the department. I further submit that this department should be greatly increased and its usefulness increased.

One more matter and I have done, and that is this: a great deal was said about travelling allowances, but do we know what is done in America? There the railways are run throughout the land, and from station to station, almost in every station, the agricultural experts stop and give instructions on the principles of agriculture and for 7 days or 10 days they teach the farmers of the neighbourhood improved methods of cultivation. If you want to make Bengal go on, make Bengal advance, we must spend money like America and take to their methods.

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: I had not intended to speak in reply to these motions; but I do think that I must make an effort to explain to the Council what our farms are, because we have had one member criticizing us for not having demonstration farms and another criticizing us for having such farms. The farms are perhaps best called experimental farms. We have been told that they should be run on a commercial basis and should be made to pay. There seems to be a great deal of extensive or intensive confusion about these farms. (Hear, hear!) The fact of the matter is that in Dacca and in Chinsura we have two big research farms at which research is carried on, and it must be clear to those who have perused the Retrenchment Committee's report and the reference made therein to "tracts of land," that the researches of these big research farms must be tested in the different tracts of land into which this country is divided—a fact which was explained to us by Mr. Travers also in his speech on the budget. We therefore take the results of research arrived at in the Dacca and Chinsura farms to our experimental farms in the districts—of which we have about 11—and it is at these farms that the discoveries of the research farms are tested in regard to their suitability to the particular locality. These farms are essentially experimental farms—they are, as it were, agricultural laboratories. Has anybody ever heard of laboratory experiments of this nature being carried out on a commercial basis? It is impossible. These farms are run on a system which is the only possible system and they cannot be run on a commercial system. It is there that different experiments are made with different kinds of manure and different kinds of seed at different times of the year. It is ridiculous to expect these farms to be run on a commercial basis. Now, from these farms in the districts it is the policy of the department to demonstrate what they have proved to be applicable to the locality and from these farms emanates demonstration work and demonstrators are sent to the interior villages, and here we come to the point raised by Rai Jogendra Chunder Ghose Bahadur. Here it is that the Hon'ble the Minister's promise of endeavouring to show to the people that small plots can be run at a profit and that a man can make a living out of a certain amount of land comes in. That is the policy of the Hon'ble the Minister and that policy is being carried out.

Instructions have been given to the department to carry out that policy; agricultural associations are being organized and private individuals are being invited to come and see how small plots of 5 or 6 bighas can be cultivated at a considerable profit.

With reference to Co-operative Agricultural Associations, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta is, I am afraid, misinformed. There are several Agricultural Associations in this country. Only to-day I have received a letter from the Director of Agriculture in Dacca, telling me of the proposed creation of more associations to take up the sale of departmental seeds, because, the demand was so great last year that all the departmental jute seeds were sold at a considerable profit to Government, and people still wanted more

I should have liked, Sir, to discuss some of the co-operative problems which Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri has raised, but I am afraid there is very little time and I cannot do so.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: These general motions for reduction of the Agricultural Budget attack the policy of the Agricultural Department. There can be no difference of opinion about the necessity for the improvement of agriculture. We are all agreed that agriculture should be improved. The question is whether the way in which we have been endeavouring to improve agriculture is the right way or not. To begin with, I cannot believe that anybody in this Council wishes to reduce the money spent upon the Agricultural Department. I am sure that on consideration every one will agree that what we require is more money and not less. As I have said before the amount actually spent upon agriculture, which is the greatest of our industries, is less than one pice per head of the people directly dependent on the industry.

It is true that the Retrenchment Committee have said that no Director is necessary for the Agricultural Department. I shall not emphasize their inconsistency in saying that the Fisheries Department has failed for want of a Director, while recommending that the Agricultural Department should be run without a Director. It seems to me obvious that a Director is necessary, though whether he should be a man with technical qualifications or an administrator is a question which may be open to discussion. It is certain, however, that the Director of Agriculture in this province will find his time very fully and usefully occupied.

Now, at the head of this department we require a man of scientific training to examine the crops of this province and the possibilities of improving those crops. One of the main crops being the fibre crop, jute, one of the richest assets of this province, we have for many years a special fibre section and the fibre section of the Government of Bengal has gained

wide reputation. The work done by Mr. Finlow and his associates is known throughout the world and appreciated.

We require botanists in this department and we have only two, one of whom is practically entirely engaged at present on cotton investigation. The number of crops in Bengal and the possibilities of those crops are so great that there is plenty of work for several botanists and we are struggling along with only two.

It is obvious also to everybody that in the case of modern agriculture a chemist is necessary. We have an Agricultural Chemist. This practically exhausts our scientific staff. We have no Mycologist, Zoologist or Entomologist and we are frequently referring to Pusa for assistance in these lines. Some time or other Pusa will tell us to do our own work.

These scientists are engaged in research and, no doubt, they have many disappointments, but they have made considerable discoveries and valuable discoveries too. These discoveries are made in the research stations and we have to convey them to the other parts of the country. We do so by trying them in our farms and demonstrating them from the farms amongst the people.

Now, Sir, I wish to avoid as much as possible discussing subjects which are the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, but it is very difficult to do so. For instance the question of the number of farms necessary in this province is a question dealt with by the Retrenchment Committee. With due respect to them I may say that we want many more farms than we have, if we are going to give our people the full benefit of our scientists. We have 13 farms now: a few years ago we had only 6; we had hopes of having more than 20 by now. In my opinion we shall require 25 or 30 farms for this province.

It is obvious that with a province of this extent, one Director cannot deal with the whole area. He must have men under him upon whom he can rely—men capable of appreciating results in different parts of the province and letting him know the requirements of the different parts of the province. These men must be trained agricultural scientists—they are the Deputy Directors. We have asked for four of them and each of them will have an area which, with the work in it, will be more than sufficient to occupy his whole time. It has been argued that we can do with three Deputy Directors. But on the other hand, this Council has, on a previous occasion, expressed its opinion that five are at least necessary. For the present we are content to go on with four. These men will be overworked if they do their work and as we increase our farms and demonstrations we shall have to increase their number. In view of the financial condition of the country, however, I have confined my demand to four. Under these Deputy Directors there will be about a dozen superintendents. Two of these are in charge of the big farms at

Dacca and Chinsura, and they are essentially necessary for these farms. I propose, as far as possible, to reduce the number of staff and to employ them not, as now, in large divisional charges, but on special investigations, like irrigation, date-sugar, etc. I have not yet come to the point of contact with the people and that point of contact is in propaganda and demonstration and it is for that that we require a large staff of district agricultural officers and demonstrators.

[At this stage, the time allotted for the discussion of the head "Agriculture" was reached, and the Hon'ble the Minister resumed his seat.]

The motion of Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur was then put and lost.

The motion of Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Roy Bahadur was put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Banerjea, Dr. Pramathanath.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kisheri Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Janah, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra.
Pahlowan, Maulvi Md. Abdul Jubbar.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray, Mr. Bijoyprasad Singh.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Manilell Singh.

NOES.

Afzal, Nawabzada K. M., Khan Bahadur.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Ahmed, Mr. M.
Ahmed, Munshi Jafar.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Ali, Munshi Amir.
Ali, Munshi Ayub.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mahamed.
Banerjea, the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath.
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.
Birley, Mr. L.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Chaudhury, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Rahmatjan.
Cooper, Mr. C. C.
Crawford, Mr. T. C.
Das, Mr. S. R.
De, Mr. K. C.
Deare, Major-General S. H.
DeLisle, Mr. J. A.
Donald, the Hon'ble Mr. J.
Donovan, Mr. J. T.
Emerson, Mr. T.
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
Chose, Mr D. C.
Chose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
Huntingford, Mr. G. T.
Hussain, Maulvi Mahammed Madasour.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the.
Marr, Mr. A.
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukerjee, Mr. S. C.
Mukherjee, Babu Nilya Dhon.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal.
Robertson, Mr. F. W.
Roy, Mr. G. N.
Roy, Mr. J. N.
Ross, Mr. G. P.
Stephenson, the Hon'ble Mr. H. L.
Stuart-Williams, Mr. S. C.
Villiers, Mr. F. E. E.

The Ayes being 17 and the Noes 50, the motion was lost.

The motions of Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri and Maulvi Ekramul Huq were then put and lost.

The motion of Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri was not put as it was covered by the previous decision.

The time allotted for the discussion of this head having been reached the following motions were not considered :—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 18,600 under the head '34C.—Co-operative Credit Registrar' be refused."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 1,00,000 under the head '34C.—Co-operative Credit—Travelling Allowance' be reduced by Rs. 10,000."

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 1,00,000 on account of travelling allowance under the head '34C.—Co-operative Credit (Transferred)' be reduced by Rs. 8,500."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 15,695 for house rent and other allowances under the head '34C.—Co-operative Credit' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. BIJOYPROSAD SINCH ROY: "That the demand for Rs. 14,592 for boat and steam-launch establishment and steam-launch contingencies under the head '34C.—Co-operative Credit' be refused."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ, Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI, and Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: "That the demand for Rs. 10,500 under the head '34C. Co-operative Credit—Steam-launch Contingencies' be refused."

Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY and Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: "That the demand of Rs. 4,78,000 under the head '34C.—Co-operative Credit' be reduced by Rs. 50,000."

Babu JATINDRA NATH BASU: "That the demand for Rs. 4,78,000 under the head '34C.—Co-operative Credit (Transferred)' be reduced by Rs. 15,000."

Mr. S. M. BOSE: "That the demand for Rs. 4,78,000 under the head '34C.—Co-operative Credit (Transferred)' be reduced by Rs. 12,000."

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ and Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur: "That the demand of Rs. 4,78,000 under the head '34.—Agriculture—Co-operative Credit' be reduced by Re. 1."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the demand for Rs. 2,44,040 for travelling allowances under the head '34.—Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 61,010."

Mr. BIJOYPROSAD SINGH ROY: "That the demand for Rs. 19,11,000 under the head '34.—Agriculture (Transferred)' be reduced by Rs. 50,000."

The original demand, as amended in Council, under the head "34.—Agriculture" was then put and agreed to.

[At this stage the Hon'ble the President returned to the Chair.]

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: With your permission, I wish to make a personal explanation of something which took place in this Council on Friday evening last during my absence from the House. I woke on Saturday morning to find in the columns of the *Statesman* a statement headed "Alleged Corruption in the Medical College Hospital." On reading it, I found this: "Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta cited a case of alleged corruption in connection with the supply of milk in the hospital and said that Mr. Donovan, who was in the Co-operative Department at that time, would be able to bear him out." On turning to the official report, an advance copy of which has been very kindly placed at my disposal by Mr. Tindall, I find that Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, said: "I am sorry to find that Mr. Donovan is not here or he would have supported me; he as Registrar of Co-operative Societies, had some experience of it in introducing a Co-operative Milk Supply Society willing to supply milk to the Medical College Hospital. In connection with that, he and I found a sad state of affairs in connection with the supply of milk to the patients in the hospital." I think Mr. Dutta will admit that this is a correct report of what he said. My point of personal explanation is this: It is several years ago since I introduced a Co-operative Milk Society to the Medical College Hospital. On that occasion and ever since I found no symptom of corruption on the part of the Medical College authorities. We found considerable opposition on the part of those whom we were displacing, and we found reason to suspect that they were interfering with us, but from the Medical College Hospital authorities we got nothing but the greatest co-operation and assistance. I further, Sir, wish to explain that in this matter I was not associated with Mr. Dutta in the close way in which his words would suggest when he says that he and I really found a sad state of affairs in corruption in the supply of milk to the patients in the hospital. Mr. Dutta was one of the Directors of the Provincial Co-operative Society which financed the milk supply, but so far as I know he had no connection with the Milk Co-operative Society which I introduced in the Medical College Hospital. I am not aware of what corruption Mr. Dutta found, but with me he found nothing. I think that is all I have to say, except that Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea, whose administration was the object of the criticism, had not at that time entered the Bengal Government.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: May I offer a word of explanation? As Mr. Donovan has explained the circumstances under which corruption

was found, may I point out that both he and I were the Directors of the Provincial Co-operative Federation which financed the Milk Society, and as Directors we came to know of this corruption? I never said that this corruption was due to the authorities of the Medical College Hospital, but I said I think it might have been due to the corruption of some of the staff, and I would like to know whether that staff has been changed since——

Mr. PRESIDENT: You are making a personal explanation and cannot ask questions. A personal explanation is a statement in explanation of some matter which merely affects you personally; it ought not to take the form of an argumentative speech asking further questions.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I cited Mr. Donovan as a witness. I had then occasion to know, and I believe Mr. Donovan also had occasion to know, that this corruption was due to some corruption amongst some people. Now Mr. Donovan asserts that these persons were mere contractors——

Mr. PRESIDENT: I did not hear Mr. Donovan say that.

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: What I said was that the authorities of the Medical College Hospital and everybody connected with that Hospital and everybody connected with that College had given every help and I saw no signs of corruption.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I cannot allow you to go on, Indu Babu, I do not understand what your point is. So far as I can see, Mr. Donovan has said that he detected no signs of corruption, and therefore, it cannot be open to you by way of personal explanation to say that Mr. Donovan found it. Do you propose to accept Mr. Donovan's statement?

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: No, I cannot accept that; I am sorry, but as far as I know——

Mr. PRESIDENT: It is usual, Mr. Dutta, when the name of a member has been brought into debate, and that member disclaims the interpretation that the speaker has put upon any action or words of his, the explanation and statement be accepted: that is usually done. In fact, it is the only way in which the functions of a public deliberative assembly can be carried on. If members will not accept the statements of other members, the conduct of business becomes impossible. I am obliged to explain to you that Mr. Donovan has made a very definite statement in which he has said that so far as he was concerned, he detected no signs of corruption. It is incumbent upon you to accept that statement as coming from Mr. Donovan.

Babu INDU BHUSNAN DUTTA: So far as I knew it, I thought that his statement was not quite correct; but, if he says that I am incorrect, I have nothing further to add; I am, however, ready to make my statement to the Hon'ble the Minister, as promised.

35.—INDUSTRIES.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: I move that the sum of Rs. 11,25,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "35.—Industries." I hasten to analyse this amount before the impression grows that it is all meant as voted expenditure under the transferred head, Industries. The amount includes Rs. 41,000 for an Electrical Adviser and Rs. 3 lakhs for cinchona plantations. It also includes Rs. 49,000 for fisheries. When we come to the transferred head, Industries proper, we find that the amount which I ask to be voted is Rs. 7,44,000 against the current year's demand of Rs. 8,37,000 and revised estimate of Rs. 7,74,000. Further, I believe there has been a mistake (and I am investigating it), in showing the salary of the Deputy Director as voted. It was shown as non-voted last year and it makes a difference of over Rs. 21,000. If this be deducted we have a demand under the transferred head Industries of Rs. 7,23,000 which is over a lakh less than the demand of a year ago. I may inform the Council that in accordance with some of the Retrenchment Committee's suggestions further reductions are in progress in this department and so rapid has been the progress that I am able to announce now under the head Direction a further reduction of Rs. 54,320 annually. Owing to the necessity of giving notice to staff, however, this will not come to more than Rs. 34,880 in the coming year. In addition I am glad to be able to announce my decision to appoint an Indian Officer as Inspector of Technical Schools, if we can get a suitable man, and I think we can. The saving on this will be Rs. 10,000 a year, but owing to leave arrangements it will not be so much in the coming year. Thus I have indicated further savings of about Rs. 65,000 a year although owing to the necessity of giving leave and notice the amount in the coming year cannot be so much. In addition the budget shows a reduction of Rs. 29,000. The total is thus almost a lakh of rupees and most of this is on the staff. Now, Sir, there is another point. The rent of the Industries building is shown on this budget as Rs. 33,000 approximately. Only one-third of the building is occupied by Industries. Education has one-third and Commerce one-third. In justice to the Industries Department this Rs. 33,000 should be Rs. 11,000. Thus the total saving on the budget, which was before the Retrenchment Committee, will be annually Rs. 1,16,000. Now, Sir, the total of the economies suggested by the Retrenchment Committee is Rs. 3,07,000. Of this amount, Rs. 1,15,000

comes off our educational institutions and the Research Tannery. We cannot lightly cut these and I doubt if the Council would wish us to do so. Hence, Sir, out of Rs. 3,07,000 suggested by the Retrenchment Committee we have disposed of Rs. 2,31,000. There remains a possible reduction of Rs. 76,000 according to the Retrenchment Committee. We are continuing our examination to endeavour to bring this about too, and I ask for the time necessary to complete this examination.

Under Development we have a slight increase of Rs. 4,000 over the revised figures of Rs. 77,000. I greatly regret that this increase is so small. It is here that we ought to have a large increase. I trust the Council will agree in this. The Council too should know that under this head we budget for receipts of Rs. 32,000.

Our main item of expenditure in the Industries Department is under Education. Out of the total demand of Rs. 7,23,000 under the transferred head we want Rs. 4,03,000 for education and of this only Rs. 27,000 is for Inspection, a reduction compared to the revised estimates and, even so, a figure which I shall, as I have said, curtail. This Rs. 27,000 also includes Rs. 9,000 for the Joint Technical Examination Board. The rest of this Rs. 4 lakhs and odd goes on schools, scholarships, grants-in-aid, and a few miscellaneous charges. Even the miscellaneous charges of Rs. 41,000 include Rs. 12,000 for mining instructions in the coal-fields, over Rs. 20,000 for the Kanchrapara Technical School, and for the rest—about Rs. 9,000—these charges are all direct or indirect contributions to the educational institutions. I feel certain that the Council will agree that this money cannot be better spent. I have said before, one of the great achievements of the Industries Department is the impetus it has given to industrial and technical education.

And now a word about Fisheries. The revised estimates are Rs. 62,000. I am asking for Rs. 49,000.

The Retrenchment Committee recommend the abolition of this department. This is a very serious and difficult question and Government has not yet come to a final conclusion. A conclusion will soon be arrived at and if Government decides to abolish the department this money will not be spent. If Government decides to retain the department the Council will have an opportunity in July of saying what they think. Meantime, we have kept the expenditure down and we shall keep it down still more until the decision is taken.

I ask the Council again, Sir, to vote the full grant of Rs. 11,25,000 under the head "35.—Industries."

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand for Rs. 21,000 on account of the charges in connection with the "Electrical Adviser under the head "35A (*a*)—Industries.—Reserved" be refused.

Electricity plays a very important part in modern industries. Indeed, industrial development cannot be undertaken on anything like a considerable scale without the help of electricity, but it is a reserved portion of the Department of Industries. It appears to me to be absurd, and therefore, I ask the Council to refuse the demand under this head on a question of principle.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: It may be a question whether this should be under the reserved or transferred side, but we must take things as they are. I am not sure that this item should not be under the head Miscellaneous Departments just as the Factory Department is. We hear a good deal about the Indianization of the Services; the proposal of Dr. Banerjea would have the effect of getting rid of all the Indian staff, the assistants and their clerks, leaving only one Inspector to carry on the duties under the Electricity Act. This is impossible. We must have this staff to carry out the work. I oppose the motion.

The motion was then put and lost.

The following motions were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 64,320 under the head '35A(*b*).—Director and other Gazetted Officers' be reduced by Rs. 50,000."

Mr. BIJOYPROSAD SINCH ROY: "That the demand for Rs. 64,320 for Directors and other Gazetted Officers under the head '35A(*b*).—Industries' be reduced by Rs. 20,000."

Babu JATINDRA NATH BASU: I recognize that the Minister of Industries is alive to the fact that it is necessary that the staff under the head Direction should be reduced, and that he is making an attempt at reduction. In view of this fact, I beg to withdraw the following motion standing in my name:—

"That the demand for Rs. 64,320 under the head '35A(*b*).—Industries—Direction' be reduced by Rs. 12,000."

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY: I move that the demand for Rs. 22,000 for travelling allowances under the head "35A (*b*).—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 11,000.

I am glad to find from the speech of the Hon'ble the Minister that the eyes of Government have at last been opened to the wasteful expenditure under this head. It is really a matter for congratulation that Government is seriously thinking of listening to the counsel of economy. It is, therefore, superfluous to say anything more; but, in the absence of

any definite assurance on the part of Government as to the amount that is going to be reduced, I should like to press my motion.

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Upendra Lal Ray Bahadur was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 22,000 on account of travelling allowance under the head '35A(*b*).—Industries—Direction' be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: I am afraid that the hon'ble Raja Sahib did not quite hear what the Hon'ble the Minister said. He announced that he has already issued orders which will result in an annual reduction of Rs. 6,000 in travelling allowance under the head Direction in the Industries Department, although, owing to the necessity of giving notice to certain of the staff, this year the reduction may only be Rs. 4,000. This is without taking into account any recommendations which we are to receive from the Finance Department. As the Raja Sahib wanted figures, I trust this will satisfy him as to our intentions in this matter.

Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHOUDHURY: In view of this statement, I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 18,000 for contribution to the Home Industries Association under the head "35A(*b*).—Industries" be refused.

This Rs. 18,000 is annually granted to a shop connected with the Home Industries Association somewhere in Corporation Street, which stocks the produce of Home industries all over the country and manages their sale in Calcutta. Last year, at budget time, in my absence, Babu Surendra Nath Mallik moved that this sum should be refused; in answer to that Mr. S. R. Das, whom I do not see here to-day, said that he was a member of the Managing Committee of the Association, and he gave an assurance that it was doing good work, and he would see that it should continue to do so. In view of that assurance the opposition was withdrawn. May I know, what improvement has been effected? Since then, there has been a Co-operative, Industrial, and Agricultural Conference held last year in Dalhousie Institute and in that conference Mr. Donovan, who is present here now, criticized the Home Industries Association in hard words. I wish I could have the language of Mr. Donovan reproduced here to-day, but he really criticized the association most strongly, and to-day the same Mr. Donovan, as Secretary, is supporting a contribution of Rs. 18,000 to this Association. Now I should like to ask a simple question. How is it that for the last seven years this shop has not been able to be managed on business lines so as to pay its own cost

by selling home industries products? How is it that it has been necessary for the Government to give Rs. 18,000 to this Association for conducting this shop? Unless our goods can be sold at a profit in a shop which can be run on business lines, I am afraid this sort of spoon-feeding of industries will not be able to improve the industries of the country. Therefore, I beg to suggest that either the shop should be run on business lines and show that our home industries have really a field in the country or the shop should be closed altogether.

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: I beg to oppose this motion. The Bengal Home Industries Association's shop is not an ordinary shop. It is rather an information bureau of all industrial products which can be had in Bengal. Anybody can go there and get from the office any information concerning our industrial products. The Director of Industries has also been helping the Association a lot. I am surprised to hear that Mr. Donovan attacked the Association some time ago. It is because he was away from Calcutta and staying in the cool climate of Darjeeling that he lost touch with the Home Industries Association. For the last two years we have been trying our utmost under the guidance of that well-known businessman, Sir R. N. Mukharji, to run this shop in a more businesslike way. We have now dispensed with the services of an expensive manager whom we were paying Rs. 700 a month and we have now got a manager who is paid less than one-third the sum. With these words, I oppose the motion.

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: There was once a Chief Secretary for Ireland. He paid a visit to a congested district where he was received by a deputation of the leading men who asked him to have a railway run through the district. They produced statistics to show that the district was flowing with milk and honey and that only a railway was needed to set factories going and generally to make the district hum with prosperity. Six months later, a new Chief Secretary was appointed and he also went down to the same congested district. The same people this time told him that it was a very poor country and they produced certain statistics and said that unless they got some sort of relief the people would famish and so they wanted him to build a pier on the sea front and give work to their starving unemployed. The second Chief Secretary asked them how it was that there was so much difference between their present statistics and the statistics submitted to his predecessor six months earlier. The spokesman of the people, who was the same on the two occasions, replied that the earlier statistics were compiled for an entirely different purpose. Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta's speech reminded me of that story. He has recalled what I said on a previous occasion, but, Sir, I spoke then for an entirely different purpose at a time when it was proposed that the Co-operative Weaving Societies should be handed over to the Home Industries Association. I pointed out then that the Home Industries Associa-

tion was not a body of the kind which should take up that work, and I used very strong language in that connection because I wanted to save my developing societies.

Rai Fanindralal De Bahadur has put the case for the Association clearly before the House and I am in entire agreement with what he has said. On this motion, however, it is the desire of Government that the decision should be left, if possible, to the non-official members of the House. It would be a great pity if the Home Industries Association were deprived of this grant, but if the House wishes to take it away, there is no remedy for it.

The motion was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Banerjea, Dr. Pramathanath.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kisheri Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Das, Babu Shishmadev.
Dess, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Farequi, Mr. K. C. M.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Naq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Hussain, Maulvi Mahammed Madassur.
Janah, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Makramali, Munshi.
Mitra, Rai Bahadur Mahendra Chandra.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Roy, Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh.
Roy, Raja Manilloll Singh.

NOES.

Atzal, Nawabzada K. M., Khan Bahadur.
Ali, Mr. Syed Erfan.
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Crawford, Mr. T. C.
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.
De, Mr. K. C.
De, Rai Bahadur Fanindralal.
Deare, Major-General B. H.
DeLisle, Mr. J. A.
Emerson, Mr. T.
Ghose, Mr D. C.
Geede, Mr. S. W.
Khan, Maulvi Md. Rafique Uddin.
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukerjee, Mr. S. C.
Mukherjee, Babu Nitya Dhen.
Philip, Mr. J. Y.
Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal.
Robertson, Mr. F. W.
Rose, Mr. C. F.
Stuart-Williams, Mr. S. C.

The Ayes being 21 and the Noes 23, the motion was lost.

The following motions were, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 15,000 on account of other contingent charges under the head '35A(*b*).—Industries—Direction' be reduced by Rs. 4,500."

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 1,95,780 for the pay of establishment allowances, honoraria, etc., grants-in-aid, contributions, donations, etc., and contingencies under the head '35A(*b*).—Direction' be reduced by Rs. 50,000."

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand for Rs. 2,60,000 on account of "Direction under Industries (Transferred) 35A(*b*)" be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000.

I believe in the industrial future of Bengal. I, therefore, think that there is a real necessity for a Department of Industries in this province. But the business of this department ought to be conducted on proper lines. If, however, the information which I have been able to gather be correct, no plan of their work has yet been framed for this department. This seems to be the policy adopted here. No attempt has yet been made to investigate the industrial possibility of this province nor has anything substantial been done to prevent the decay or encourage the growth of indigenous industries. Industrial development always involves large expenditure at the outset, but funds have not been available nor are likely to be available at a time of financial stringency like the present. It is a great pity, however, that whatever funds are available they are being spent on officers and establishment leaving very little for research investigation and experiments, or for helping struggling industries. There is a huge staff consisting of a large number of officers, both high and low. Sir, figures, they say, are often more eloquent than phrases. I shall, therefore, ask the indulgence of the House to quote a few figures. The expenditure under the head Direction amounts to Rs. 2,86,000 while that under Industrial Development is only Rs. 81,000. The Department of Industries is supposed to exist for the purpose of industrial development, but the expenses incurred for "Direction" are three and a half times as much as those incurred for the development of industry. Coming to the details, we find that the Director of Industries draws a salary of Rs. 2,000 rising to Rs. 2,500.

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: On a point of order, Sir. The salaries of the Director of Industries is non-voted.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I was going to say the same thing. This sum is non-voted, and I shall, therefore, not say anything about it. The salary of the Deputy Director——

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: On a point of order, Sir. There is a misprint in this budget and I pointed it out to the Finance Department, but it has not been corrected. It is this that the salary of the Deputy Director is non-voted.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Dr. Banerjea, you need not refer to the salary of the Deputy Director, as it is non-voted.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: There are two experts—one an Industrial Chemist and the other an Industrial Engineer, each drawing Rs. 1,000 a month. The services of a Chemical Expert are essential

in any Department of Industry and ought to be retained. Besides the present incumbent is a very capable man and his advice, so far as I know, is eagerly sought by industrialists, but at the present moment it is not in contemplation to start any large workshops ,and, therefore, the services of the engineering expert may safely be dispensed with. The five Superintendents of Industries who are working in the five divisions are doing good work. Their salaries are comparatively small and all of them are Indians. The most important work before us is to investigate the industrial condition of the different parts of the province and for this work the Indian gentlemen of education and enthusiasm, are the best fitted, and in this connection I most strongly oppose the recommenlations of the Retrenchment Committee to do away with these officers. Their work is likely to prove far more fruitful than the work of highly paid European officers. The work of supervising the technical schools and holding examinations should be left in the hands of these superintendents. If this is done, the post of Inspector of Technical Institutions may be abolished and a considerable saving effected thereby. The superior staff is aided by a large army of clerks who have very little work to do. Then, there are travelling allowances which may be curtailed by a substantial amount. The Industrial Department is located in a building for which a high rent is paid. A portion of the building may be sub-let without any loss in the efficiency of the department. The real object of the creation of this department, viz., industrial development, should be kept steadily in view and should not be subordinate to the interests of the officers. For this purpose a substantial reduction ought to be made and the money spent on the staff should be so allocated that a larger sum may be available for encouraging the growth of industries. There is another matter which deserves our consideration. The interests of the people of the country should be the primary concern of the department. Industrial development is not the same thing as exploitation and the duty of this department is to prevent the resources of the country from being in any way exploited, and to devote it for the interests of the country.

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: I do not know whether Dr. Banerjea has again heard the Hon'ble the Minister aright. If he had, I think he would not have made certain statements in his speech which he has made. Dr. Banerjea has suggested that the Industries buildings might be sub-let, in part at least. But the Hon'ble the Minister pointed out that two-thirds of the buildings are not occupied by the Industries Department but by other offices—the office of the Chief Inspector of Factories and the Education offices—and that only one-third is now occupied by the department. The Hon'ble the Minister further pointed out that the charges for rent, etc., should, as far as the Industries Department is concerned, be reduced by Rs. 22,000. The Hon'ble the Minister also announced a reduction under the head Direction of a sum of Rs. 55,000 and under the head Inspection another Rs. 10,000. The total sum is not very much less than

the amount suggested by Dr. Banerjea. But the Hon'ble the Minister's reductions have not proceeded on the lines suggested by Dr. Banerjea. I do not know whether Dr. Banerjea's idea is to weed out the European element from the department. I am, however, not going to raise a communal question here—we have had enough of that. But I would ask him: Where is India to turn to for instruction in modern industry if not to Europe and to Europeans? We have taken qualified Indians wherever we have found them. We have appointed Dr. Dutt, a very able man, as our Industrial Chemist—a post which Dr. Banerjea wants to keep, while he proposes to do away with the post of the Industrial Engineer, Mr. Budd. Dr. Banerjea does not know what Mr. Budd is doing. He is overburdened with applications from small industries and embryo industries in this province for advice in laying out factories, machinery, etc. Mr. Budd is quite as busy as Dr. Dutt and both of them are very busy. It has been found, however, that for the purposes of the department, five Superintendents were superfluous and the Hon'ble the Minister has announced that the department will carry on the work in future with only two Superintendents.

Then, again, reference has been made by Dr. Banerjea regarding the appointment of the Inspector for Technical Schools. Probably it will gratify Dr. Banerjea to learn that the European Inspector for Technical Schools has gone never to return, and that in his place it is hoped to appoint an Indian on a considerably lower salary.

Unfortunately, Sir, whoever is responsible for the printing of the Budget is responsible for a great deal of trouble and misapprehension. The number of clerks shown in the Budget is 94. There are not really 94. However, the Hon'ble the Minister, long before the Retrenchment Committee was even proposed, himself thought that the clerical staff was excessive and he is going to reduce the number to 36. I trust that Dr. Banerjea will admit that the Hon'ble the Minister anticipated his idea in the matter of retrenchment and that the Industries Department is now setting a good example to the other departments.

In view of the retrenchments which the Hon'ble the Minister has announced I think it would be very graceful, if unusual, on the part of Dr. Banerjea to withdraw his motion.

The motion was then put and lost.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand under the head "35.—Industries—Industrial Development" for items other than travelling be reduced by Rs. 10,000.

My amendment aims at a very modest proposal. If a substantial amount is not available for industrial development, at least a portion of it may be utilized for encouraging and helping struggling industrial movements in the country—I mean by paying these industrial concerns some

pecuniary help so that they can meet the interest for the capital required. These struggling industrial concerns are not in a position to thrive on account of financial difficulties. I avoid any controversial question arising out of it, but I earnestly appeal to the Hon'ble the Minister in charge to help the deserving industrial concerns by providing them with money to meet the interest for their capital. It is in this hope that I have brought forward this motion and I am sure, if these industrial concerns are helped, a good deal can be effected for industrial development.

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: If I have understood my hon'ble friend Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, aright, he has suggested that we should cut Rs. 10,000 from Development in order to have development. It sounds very much like feeding a dog with its own tail. Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri can perhaps see more clearly in this matter than I can. It is said that with Rs. 10,000 we should borrow a lakh and a half and put it into Development. I do not see much difference between his proposal and ours. I am sorry he wants to cut this money from Development. If he had suggested this cut from Direction or Travelling Allowances and suggested applying the money to Development, I could have appreciated his spirit. As a matter of fact, we anticipated this and, as Mr. Khaitan (whom I do not find here) knows, we have a Bill in preparation which we hope to circulate next month for financing industries in this province on the lines of the Madras Industrial Loans Act which was passed some time ago. When that Bill comes into operation, some of the savings which we have effected under Direction will, I hope be used in raising loans for financing deserving industries which have passed the test of the Industries Department.

I hope that after hearing this, Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri will withdraw his motion.

The motion was put and lost.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I move that the demand for Rs. 20,000 under the head "35A(*b*).—Inspection" being the pay of the Inspector and his travelling allowance be refused.

I am glad to hear to-day that the Hon'ble the Minister has decided to reduce this grant by Rs. 10,000. I would have further liked the total abolition of the post and not only its Indianization. I am not opposed to inspection of technical schools, but what I suggest is that there are several Deputy Directors of Industries and Superintendents of Industries provided under another head and this inspection work could have been satisfactorily carried on by them. I throw out the suggestion for the consideration of the Hon'ble the Minister, and as he has already reduced the grant by Rs. 10,000, with your permission I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand for contribution to schools for Durbar Day under "35A(*b*).—Industries" be refused.

This motion is intended merely to ask the Hon'ble the Minister whether this amount is meant to give sweetmeats to school boys.

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: I understand it is a grant to meet the Durbar Day celebrations. I am not sure if it is the name of the grant or its amount that really caught the hon'ble member's eye. It is only Rs. 500. After the great Durbar in India it has been the practice of the Education Department to give contributions to schools in order to make boys and girls happy on Durbar Day, and when the Industries Department started their schools they followed this excellent example. This amount is meant to make the boys and girls happy on the Durbar Day.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu JOGENDRA NATH ROY: "That the demand of Rs. 7,44,000 under the head '35A(*b*).—Industries' be reduced by Rs. 4,00,000."

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I move that the demand for Rs. 7,44,000 under the head "35A(*b*).—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000.

In moving this motion I have two matters to place before the Council. First with regard to the absence of any provision for the encouragement of vocational education and manual training. In February, 1921, I moved a resolution to this effect and it was accepted by the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter, the Minister for Education. I expected that something would be done to give effect to the resolution. I waited and waited, and to my utter disappointment I found that no active steps had been taken. I understand that the Hon'ble the Minister for Education is no longer in charge of this department, and consequently I thought that some provision ought to be made in this connection. Sir, that is the only sort of education which is highly necessary for this country. I need not take up much time of the Council by discussing the usefulness of educating our boys in this direction. I brought the matter to the notice of the Council on the last occasion. It is the only way by which we can combat the non-co-operation movement. Our boys—the students of schools and colleges— were encouraged in their hope that they would get vocational education and would be in a position to earn a living, but no provision has been made for this. I bring this matter to the notice of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Industries, if that is an item within his jurisdiction, because I find that the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter has not taken a note of it. That is my first point, and my

second point, is as to how I come to the figure by which I have asked to reduce this grant. I find that the Retrenchment Committee has put down Rs. 3,14,300 as the net reduction, but I have a great desire for the expansion, for the continuance and improvement, of the Weaving School, and therefore, I have reduced the cut recommended by the Retrenchment Committee to Rs. 2,00,000. With these observations I request the Council to consider whether the amount which I have put before them is a reasonable one or not.

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Roy Bahadur was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 7,44,000 under the head '35A(*b*).—Industries' be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000."

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: I shall be the last man to cut out one pice from the industries grant, but I support this motion in order to protest against the action of the department in not carrying out the resolution of this Council that a technological college be established in this country. That resolution we carried by an overwhelming majority two years ago and nothing has been done in this direction. To say that there is no money is, to my mind, not satisfactory. I should like to know if any attempt has been made in this direction, but I am afraid no attempt has been made. The resolution of this Council has been flouted in every step and the worst of it is this that this technological college which has been promised by Lieutenant-Governor after Lieutenant-Governor and Governor after Governor is being completely ignored by our present Minister.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 7,44,000 under the head '35A(*b*).—Industries' be reduced by Rs. 50,000."

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Upendra Lal Ray Bahadur was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 10,46,000 under the head '35A.—Industries' be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 10,46,000 under the head "35A.—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 55,000.

In my budget speech I pointed out that the cost of Direction proposed in connection with the development of the Department of Industries was so disproportionate that it was no wonder that there was practically nothing done for the development of industries. Since then, I have been looking through the report of the Department of Industries for the year 1921—that is the latest report I suppose. In

that report I find that several schemes are hanging fire in the department, and I should like to be enlightened on this point, viz., as to how the schemes have been given effect to. The report says that a scheme for the development of some industries in Bengal was submitted to Government for consideration and approved on the 10th September, 1921—more than a year and a half ago—and I should like to know what has been done in that direction. We have been pressing in this Council for some sort of scheme for the development of the glass industry in Bengal. In that report, I find that Government has done nothing in this matter. A scheme was submitted by Mr. S. S. Deb, Manager of the Calcutta Pottery Works, in 1921, but the sanction of Government was awaited when the year closed. Since then a year and a half has passed, and I should like to know what the department has done as regards the development of the glass industry. Then, I find there a scheme for the establishment of a dairy farm. I do not know how it comes under Industries, but I find that after considering the whole thing, it is stated at the end of the year that the scheme was still under consideration. I suppose this is still now under consideration after two years. Then, there is another matter, namely, wood-supply for the match manufacturing industry. During the last six months nearly 200 match-making machines have been introduced in Bengal and everywhere the cry has gone forth that no suitable match-tip has been found. They went up to the Industries Department for help, but I am afraid that they have cried in vain. The department with their expert chemist has not been able to do anything. I beg to submit to this Council that when schemes for the development of the most important industries are hanging fire, when difficulties in the way of industries have been vainly submitted to them, they have not been able to do any work to justify their existence. As regards the establishment of a technological institute for vocational training, we have been crying in vain. We are awaiting an announcement from the Hon'ble the Minister with regard to this matter. The Hon'ble the Minister not only has no initiative himself, but what is worse still, he will not follow the initiative of the Council. Is that the way to develop the industries of the country?

Mr. SYED NASIM ALI: I oppose all these motions for cutting down the amount which is being demanded by the Government for the development of industries, and in opposing all these amendments I practically accept the arguments which have been advanced for cutting down these demands. Sir, it is absolutely necessary that we should develop our industries. How is that development to be effected? Certainly not by cutting down grants for industrial development. If the suggestion is that these amounts, which will be cut down, will be utilized for this particular purpose, I am quite at one with the hon'ble members who have made the suggestions. But unfortunately, Sir, we all know that constitutionally we cannot do it. We have got the power to cut it down, we have

not got the power to say that the amount which has been saved may be utilized in this particular way. Therefore, the moment we cut down money from a transferred subject, we do not know where that amount will go. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that the amount should remain under the transferred heads, and then we will bring out resolutions asking our Minister to devote a particular amount for a particular purpose. I think, as we are all for the improvement of technical and industrial education as we wall want that in every village there should be industrial and technical schools, it is absolutely necessary that we should try to secure as much money as possible, and, therefore, it is desirable that no attempt should be made to cut down any amount from this particularhead . I shoull be very glal if the hon'ble movers would bring in an amendment demanding Rs. 13 crores—the revenue of the entire province—for the development of Bengal industries, and I would join my voice with theirs in this demand, but what is the good of cutting down a particular amount if we are not sure that the amount is going to be devoted for this particular purpose. Then, Sir, the idea is that some amounts should be taken from the head "Direction and Superintendence." I think the Governmet has already explained the position that they have already retrenched a large amount and they are trying their best to cut down the expenditure as much as possible. Therefore, we should not reduce any amount from this head. If we cut down a large amount of money from the Industries Department, the result will be that it will really be a loss to us for this reason that it is a transferred subject, and if we have money in the hands of our Minister, we shall be able to ask him to spend that money for a particular purpose.

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: When replying to Dr. Banerjea I deliberately left the question of education alone, because I knew it was coming on again. We have been charged, Sir, by Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur and other gentlemen, with having done nothing for education in this department. I stand amazed at these charges in view of what the Hon'ble the Minister has said three or four times already. I heard him saying that it was the Industries Department which brought technical education out of the darkness in which it had been left for years. I ask the Council to bear in mind that out of the total demand for the Industries Department 54 per cent. is for education, and of that 54 per cent., which comes to Rs. 4,21,000, a sum of Rs. 27,000 only—it has now been reduced by Rs. 10,000—is spent on inspection. On schools we spend Rs. 2,25,000, on scholarships Rs. 19,000, on grants-in-aid Rs. 99,000, and on miscellaneous Rs. 41,000. Now we shall see what this miscellaneous is. Miscellaneous includes Amin examination charges, grants to the Indian Museum, mining instruction in coal-fields, Rs. 12,000, contribution to the Eastern Bengal Railway for the Kanchrapara Technical School, contribution to the Board of Control for apprenticeship training, and a few small items such as

contributions to schools for Durbar Day. Now in the face of these figures it seems strange that gentlemen should get up and say that this department has done nothing for education. Surely these gentlemen cannot have examined these figures. We are spending the bulk of our grant on education. We must first educate the people and then industrial development may follow. The development of industry must be preceded by intensive technical education. An economist of the fame of Dr. Banerjea will perhaps agree with me that that is the history of such a modern industrial country as Germany. The policy of the Hon'ble the Minister is to bring about an intensive system of technical education, to be followed, we hope, by the development of industries.

The President then called upon the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur, to speak.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: May I rise to a point of order? Is it necessary for two official members to reply to the same motions?

Mr. PRESIDENT: There is much matter to reply to and I think the Hon'ble the Minister should have an opportunity of speaking.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: These motions invite a general discussion of the policy and administration of the department to which it refers and I am glad to have this opportunity of dealing with these matters. Of course in the process of dealing with 190 and odd motions for the reduction of the budget it is obvious that a valuable motion of this kind is likely to suffer from the limitations which time and the frailty of the human frame impose upon even Ministers in the Bengal Government.

On another occasion—on the general discussion it was—I told the House that neither they nor I had any experience in the organization and administration of a new department such as this is. We asked ourselves how we were to set about our work and the only reply possible was "learn from experience." The House cannot have forgotten the great enthusiasm of the boom when even moderate imaginations conjured up great industrial centres and numerous industries scattered over India and especially Bengal. May I remind the House that it was not only the professional administrator and the civil servant who were deceived, but that shrewd, hard-headed businessman and the man in the street? The ruins of a hundred hopeful companies stare us in the face and disillusion us. When this department was being organized the Government consulted businessmen and they followed their advice. As I have said it was a time of hope and enthusiasm and a great programme was laid down. The staff was selected and appointed and in this a mistake was made. There can be no doubt that a large staff will be necessary for this department, but the staff should be appointed as the work grows. In the enthusiasm of the time it was hoped that this department would have a great

deal of work to do and preparations were made for that work. Subsequently it was found necessary in order to get on with the work on hand to appoint an engineer and a chemist. I am free to confess, Sir, that, after watching and examining the work of this department, and before the Retrenchment Committee had spoken, I was convinced that on the administrative side it was overstaffed. I waited for the Retrenchment Committee's Report. The report of course in this as in all matters is receiving careful consideration. However, Sir, the House will be glad to know that I have already ordered the reduction of the ministerial staff to 36, the reduction of the Superintendents to 2 and that I hope to replace the expensive European Officer who was Inspector of Technical and Industrial Schools by a competent but less costly Indian officer. There will also be a consequent reduction in servants, contingencies, and travelling allowances.

I would again, as I have done before, ask the House to consider our policy in this department. The work is divided into three main divisions. First there is Direction, for which the demand is Rs. 2,60,100 including—wrongly I believe—the Deputy Director's salary, which last year was—rightly I think—shown as non-voted. This demand includes also rent for the building, which accommodates other departments besides Industries. As I have pointed out it will be considerably reduced as a result of the orders already given, and I am still considering further reductions. The exact amount of reduction, however, it is impossible now to say and hence I hope the Council will follow His Excellency's advice and give us time to evaluate this reduction.

Then there is Development. So far we have one factory, the Research Tannery. We could have more if we had funds. For instance, we could probably go on with a demonstration match factory. The Council, if I judge rightly from what I have heard, has no objection to development, except my own objection that it is not fast enough or wide enough.

However, this is a matter of money and we hope the Council will later, perhaps give us sanction to utilize our savings under Direction for Development.

The Council, Sir, does not object to technical and industrial education. Of our total demand for Industries 54 per cent. is for education. We have opened schools and technical institutes, a mining class, apprenticeship courses, demonstrations, fixed and peripatetic, and we have done a good deal to create that atmosphere and that sentiment which precedes industrial development. The creation of that atmosphere and that sentiment are essential to development.

There is one more matter on which I wish to say a word—a matter in which Mr. Khaitan and others have evinced great interest. In the course of the next month I hope to have a draft Bill ready on the lines of the Madras Industrial Loans Act. This, if it becomes law, will, it is

hoped, give an impetus to development and considerably increase the work of the department.

I trust then, Sir, the hon'ble members after hearing this brief résumé of our policy and activity will withdraw the resolutions. I am thankful for the opportunity given me of repeating what I have said about our policy in this department. I shall be more glad if hon'ble members interested will come and see the Industries Department at work, investigate the extent of its activities and possiblities and give me the benefit of their very valuable advice.

The motions of Rai Mahendra Chandra Mitra Bahadur and Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta were then put and lost.

At this stage the Council was adjourned for 15 minutes.

After the adjournmnt,

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn :—

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 10,46,000 under the head '35A.—Industries' be reduced by Rs. 25,000."

The following motions standing in the name of Babu Satish Chandra Mukharji were, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn :—

"That the demand of Rs. 6,360 under the head '35B.—Fisheries—Clerks' be reduced to Rs. 3,000."

"That the demand of Rs. 1,512 under the head '35B.—Fisheries.—Servants' be reduced to Rs. 500."

"That the demand of Rs. 8,000 under the head '35B.—Fisheries—Travelling Allowance' be reduced to Rs. 5,000."

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: The motion that stands in my name runs thus: "That the demand for Rs. 49,000 under the head '39B.—Fisheries' be refused."

This is one of the amendments based on the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, and so I am bound to withdraw it.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand for Rs. 49,000 under the head "35B.—Fisheries" be refused.

There are grave doubts in the public mind as to the utility of this department. If, however, the Hon'ble the Minister can show us by reference to facts and figures that the supply of fish has increased in Bengal since the creation of this department some twenty years ago, I think we shall all be disposed to withdraw our motions. The Bengalees are a fish-eating race, and I do not think there will be any desire on the part of any of us to abolish this department if it can be proved that this department is doing useful work. I do not know whether the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of this department is a statistician, but I know one of his colleagues is, and I hope with his help he will be able to enlighten us on this point.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ supported this motion.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: We have been trying for some time to abolish this department as it has not been proving its usefulness. Again we say that, if it be useful, we shall retain it; otherwise not. I understand that the Hon'ble the Minister is also willing to meet us to some extent in this way: For two or three months it may be retained and after that if it is not proved useful, it may be abolished. If that is so, I have no objection.

Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur: I have also been given to understand that the Hon'ble the Minister wants to see how the department works till July and if it is not properly worked, he is quite ready to give way to public opinion and to see that effective retrenchment is effected in the department. If that is not his position—I find that Mr. Donovan is shaking his head—if that be the case I am constrained to say this: For the last three years we have been watching the working of the department and we find that it has absolutely done nothing and wasted public money. We are a fish-eating people; we are anxious that there should be an ample fish supply in the country and we have no objection to having a Fisheries Department provided it sees its way to work properly and supply a very useful and very much appreciated foodstuff to the people of Bengal, but as a matter of fact nothing has been done by this department. The money that is being spent on this department is an absolute waste. I remember to have moved a resolution advocating the abolition of the department on a previous occasion. On that occasion my motion was lost by one vote and one hon'ble member had the hardihood to say that apart from any question of its usefulness up to this period, it must be remembered that every civilized Government had a Fisheries Department. The question of civilization apart, our Government is, no doubt, a civilized Government, but at the same time our Government is a bankrupt Government. We cannot afford to be generous and to be wasteful in this fashion by maintaining a number of officers who practically do nothing. Of course it may be said that they do a lot of experimental work, but that work is not appreciated by the people inasmuch as the results of their experiments have not at all been adopted by the people. Then it is said that the fishermen of the country can be induced to take advantage of the co-operative banks. I submit that it is a different thing altogether and the Department of Co-operative Societies can do a lot of good in that way instead of having a Fisheries Department. It seems that the work of the Fisheries Department is almost nil, inasmuch as this department can get on without a Director of Fisheries for two years consecutively. With these words I support this motion.

Rai MAHENDRA CHANDRA MITRA Bahadur: I beg to submit that the Fisheries Department ought to be a part of the Agricultural Department. In many countries, that procedure has been adopted. I

notice also that Mr. Frederick Nicholson of Madras suggests the same idea. Therefore, it is for the Council to consider whether this large sum of money which is spent on this head can be saved by the amalgamation of the two departments. In my budget speech I have referred to one fact, viz., the total abolition of the Fisheries Department, for reasons which I explained. Now I submit with all humility, that the expenditure under this head is a waste of money and nothing else. With regard to the particular amount which I wish to be reduced I submit that I am not far wrong from the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I beg to support this motion.

Babu JATINDRA NATH BASU: I move that the demand for Rs. 49,000 under the head "35B.—Fisheries (Transferred)" be reduced by Rs. 12,250.

I notice from the introductory speech of the Hon'ble the Minister that the Government is considering as to what they are to do with the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee as regards this department. But whatever is done I desire to call the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister to the facts that have been laid before his in the discussion that has taken place in this House. It appears from the reports that have been published from the Fisheries Department that there is no systematic policy in the conduct of the work of the department. In one year there was a proposal to establish a station for carp culture at Kharda, but a year or two later we find that the scheme was abandoned. We find that the work is done in a haphazard fashion. There is no systematic scheme laid down for the working of the department. What we want Government to do is first of all to think out a policy—a policy that will lead to the growth and cheapening of fish. We all know in this province that fish is getting less and the price is getting higher: that is a fact which the Hon'ble the Minister should take into account. As fish is the poor man's food, serious notice ought to be taken of this. With these facts full in view, the policy of the department should be laid down. If the department is to continue, it should continue on a systematic basis.

Mr. S. M. BOSE: I move that the demand for Rs. 49,000 under the head "35B.—Fisheries" be reduced by Rs. 100.

I do not agree with those who say that the Fisheries Department ought to be entirely abolished. I believe a great deal of good can be done by the department if it is properly worked. So I venture to make certain suggestions to the Hon'ble the Minister in charge. At present the department is not being properly worked so one cannot be at all surprised that so little is done by it. So far as I can make out what the department does is the following: firstly, collection of facts and figures—

how many thousands of maunds of fish are imported into Calcutta by sea, river, rail and so on. All that may be very interesting, but does not really help the Fishery Department; secondly the work of the department is occasionally to buy fish fry and sell them to owners of tanks. This work can be done better and cheaper by fishermen supplying direct to the owners; thirdly, the most important work seems to be spending money in travelling and steam-launches—the amount for these two heads comes to some Rs. 24,000 out of Rs. 49,000. One may well ask why all this money is wasted, and what the steam-launch establishment and contingencies are for, and what justification there is for the temporary establishment which comes to the large figures of Rs. 6,600.

I now turn to offer certain suggestions. I think that this department should be entirely amalgamated with the Agricultural Department which will then be styled Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. It will then no longer be necessary to keep two separate staffs, permanent and temporary establishment, and steam-launches, and, I make bold to suggest this, as this is exactly what is done in England. In England since 1903, the Board of Agriculture has taken over charge of the powers and duties of the Board of Trade relating to fisheries and since then the Government, as represented by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, takes no direct part in the establishment and in the maintenance of hatcheries or in the institution of biological stations, etc., though subsidies are often given to scientific and local bodies for research work. Very properly I think the Government in England does not interfere with the legitimate work of private enterprise. Now let me consider for a moment the improvement which, I think, will follow upon the adoption of my suggestion regarding amalgamation. First of all the Director of Agriculture will be *ipso facto* in charge of fisheries. Then the system of extra allowance now in vogue will disappear. In passing, I may call attention to the fact that the late Director, Mr. Evans, used to draw a charge allowance of Rs. 60, whereas the present Director, Mr. Finlow, draws Rs. 200 a month as charge allowance. I do not understand——

Mr. J. T. DONOVAN: May I point out that Mr. Evans drew exactly the same allowance as the present Director, i.e., Rs. 200? I do not know where Mr. S. M. Bose got his figures from.

Mr. S. M. BOSE: I got this figure of Rs. 60 from the Civil List for October, 1922. I do not understand why Mr. Finlow, the Fibre Expert, has been placed in charge of Fisheries. Is there any connection between the three words—Finlow, fibre, and fish? I submit that the charge allowance of Rs. 200 must go because the Director is a whole-time officer, and as such I do not think he is entitled to any extra allowance at all.

Then the next advantage of the proposed amalgamation would be that there would be a considerable saving and no longer will it be necessary to incur expenditure on account of steam-launches, travelling and other charges including that for temporary establishment for the Fisheries Department. All this can be saved. Further all agricultural officers —the Director, Deputy Director, District Agricultural Officers will become *ipso facto* fishery officers and will carry on all work within their respective areas. I think no expert knowledge is at all required for this, and any intelligent officer like the District Agricultural Officer will be able to look after the stocking of fish fry in tanks and canals. I have another argument in favour of this proposal. The Director of Co-operative Department will look after co-operative work among fishermen if they need help. In fact both the Fisheries and Agricultural Departments deal with the same problem of food supply—the one on land the other in water and should go hand in hand. One is agriculture and the other aquiculture. I am well aware that the Hon'ble the Minister is very keen on improving this department and I beg to offer him my ideas in the hope that he may give effect to them.

The following motion standing in the name of Professor S. C. Mukherji was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 49,000 under the head '35B.—Fisheries' be reduced by Re. 1."

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: It is not necessary to speak much on this subject because, I understand, the gentlemen who have moved the amendments are not very serious, but it is necessary to say a few words because the matter will be considered by the Government when the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee come before them. One of the chief assets of Bengal is its fishery. It is well said in our Shastras that there is no greater evil than ignorance. If my friends knew how fisheries have made Japan a wealthy country and how on account of the fisheries there was a war between Japan and Russia for the island of Saghalien and how the island was divided into two parts they would not press their motions. It is also well-known that a scientific cultivation of fish made Australia at one time very rich. It is well-known how in Bengal also some people, not Bengalis, became rich by curing simple prawns and sending them to Burma and China, but it seems that the movers of these amendments are perfectly innocent of these facts. I had to send boys to Japan and America to learn fish curing. (Hear, hear.) Now you say abolish the Fisheries Department altogether and that no scientific and methodical treatment of the subject is necessary. I oppose these amendments with all the emphasis I can command and say that the department should be developed and improved still further and not abolished.

Mr. KRISHNA CHANDRA RAY CHAUDHURI: Like the Ministers' pay the Department of Fisheries has been the subject of frequent attack both last year and the year before. In the matter of Ministers' pay members may have studied the question, but in the case of the Fisheries Department I am afraid nobody took the trouble to read the bulletins published by the department. An hon'ble member has pointed out that the Fisheries Department do not help in the increase of fish supply. I am not going to discuss whether the object of the Fisheries Department is to help the increase of fish supply or not, but I do say from practical experience that since the starting of the department if any one studied the statistics of the fish borne by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway he would find that, at the instance of the Fisheries Department, the import of fish by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway has increased from 500 maunds a year to 15,000 maunds to-day. From personal knowledge I can tell you that at least one of the most valuable Indian fisheries has been exploited with the advice of the Fisheries Department. I mean the Chilka Lake. People of Bengal knew little or nothing of the Chilka Lake. I had a share in that experiment. I got valuable advice from Mr. Southwell, Sir K. G. Gupta, and others; I could not make money but my successors are making money out of the Chilka Lake. Now the varieties of fish which were at one time considered to be luxuries, e.g., mullets, bhangars, saltwater bhetkies, etc., are now coming into Calcutta in very large quantity.

Another thing which the department appears to be tackling is to reduce the *zooloom* of the middlemen or *nikaris*. We all know the proverb: *jaler ponde tena ar nikarir kanay shona* (while a fisherman has a torn piece of loin cloth the middlemen has a gold ear-ring). The Fisheries Department induces owners of fisheries and collectors controlling Government Fisheries not to let the fisheries out to the middlemen, the mahajans, and money-lenders. They insisted on framing rules so that the fisheries might only be let out to the fishermen and the Co-operative Credit Societies were asked to advance money for the purpose. I do not know what they have done.

Another point which the Fisheries Department are studying, if they have not already done so, is how to stop the indiscriminate slaughter of fish fry. That is the burning question of the day and should be tackled by the Department of Fisheries. Fishermen fish these fries in spawning season indiscriminately slaughter these fish fry by sending them to the market and selling at one anna per seer. I hope some day laws will be enacted which will put a stop to this practice.

Another thing that the Fisheries Department should tackle is the cultivation of carps in tanks. Many people do not know why carps do not spawn in tanks, but the Fisheries Department have done something in this direction. I remember to have visited a place in Midnapore called Garbeta and I found that it was possible for carp to grow under certain conditions and the department should follow up investigations.

Mr. Bose says that the Fisheries Department and Agriculture should be linked together. They are practically one and the same department. In England it is called the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. In England the Fisheries Department are manned by experts; there are local boards also like the Lancashire Board. Mr Southwell, who has retired from Bengal, has got a lucrative post in one of these Boards. I think the gentlemen who really apply for information should go to the Fisheries Department and ask the Minister in charge or his Secretary for the facts and figures before they condemn the department. I do hope that after the explanation which the Hon'ble the Minister will give, my friends will see their way to withdraw their motions.

Mr. J. A. JONES: As Mr. Krishna Chandra Ray Chaudhuri has taken up all my points I do not propose to say anything more.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: I have already spoken on this point. It is one of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee and Government is considering that recommendation. I am not in a position now to say whether it would be retained or abolished and His Excellency has already said to the Council that his decision will be announced in July next. With these words, I ask the members to withdraw their motions.

The motion of Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea was then put and lost.

The motion of Babu Jatindra Nath Basu was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The motion of Mr. S. M. Bose was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I beg also to withdraw.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 45,550 travelling allowances under the head '35.—Industries' be reduced by Rs. 11,387."

The following motion standing in the name of Maulvi Ekramul Huq was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 11,25,000 under the head '35.—Industries' be reduced by Re. 1."

The original demand under the head "35.—Industries" was then put and agreed to.

37.—Miscellaneous Departments.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: I move that a sum of Rs. 2,55,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "37.—Miscellaneous Departments."

This refers to the provisions for the Factories Department, Provincial Statistics, and certain miscellaneous items, such as the Smoke Nuisance Committee, and the Director of Civil Supplies. There is nothing much

to be said about all these items. I shall deal with the particular points raised in the various amendments when they are moved.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 52,170 under the head "37A.—Inspector of Factories—Pay of Officers" be reduced by Rs. 5,500; and that the demand for Rs. 25,800 under the head "37A.—Inspector of Factories—Travelling Allowance" be reduced by Rs. 5,800.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand for Rs. 52,170 for pay of officers under the head "37A.—Inspector of Factories" be reduced by Rs. 3,600.

Till March, 1922, the Government of Bengal had only three officers for inspection of factories. Thereafter, on account of, as they said, increased work necessitated by the amendment of the Indian Factories Act, three more officers were provided for in the budget for 1922-23; that is by April, 1922-23, Government had provided for six officers for inspection of factories. Then again in July last the Government got a fourth officer sanctioned for the inspection of factories, but no appointment was made. Till now, therefore, they had six officers and I do not understand why they were making provision for a seventh officer for the inspection of factories. If they could do without appointing another additional officer up till now, they can very well do without an extra officer next year; more so, in view of the fact that the officers on leave are returning to their duties. Unless we see, therefore, that the work has increased to such an extent that even six officers are unable to cope with it and the appointment of another additional Inspector of Factories is absolutely necessary, I think we can and should wait. In that view I propose that no provision should now be made for another extra Inspector of Factories.

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Upendra Lal Ray Bahadur was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 25,800 on account of travelling allowance under the head '37A.—Inspector of Factories' be reduced by Rs. 6,000."

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand for Rs. 1,16,600 under the head "37A.—Inspector of Factories" be reduced by Rs. 50,000.

The demand under this head amounted to Rs. 78,000 in 1921-22. In the current year the expenditure is expected to come up to Rs. 92,000, but in the budget for the coming year the demand is made for Rs. 1,16,600; that is, in the course of two years the expenditure under this head is going to be increased by about Rs. 48,000. I do not know exactly what necessity there is for this increased expenditure. Then again, I find that in the current year there are six officers in the higher

grade, but in the coming year the number is going to be increased to 7. I also suggest that the amount in respect of the pay of the officer be reduced. Then again, there is some saving made in the travelling allowances, steam-launch, and other contingencies. If that is done, I think a saving may easily be effected of about half a lakh of rupees without any loss of efficiency.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 1,16,600 under the head "37A.—Inspector of Factories" be reduced by Rs. 16,600.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: I am afraid the hon'ble members who have spoken have not appreciated the effect of the amendment which was made in the Factories Act a short time ago, an amendment which followed on the resolutions adopted in the Washington International Labour Conference. The result is that factory inspection work is now more than double its former volume. I imagine it is appreciated that factory inspection is really necessary. It is intended for the supervision of the welfare of the workers, including the control of machinery and fencing to guard against accident, adequate ventilation in factories, and various other measures which are set out in the Factories Act, and it will be agreed that a staff is necessary to enforce the provisions of this Act.

The first thing that the recent amendment of the Act did was to make a change in the definition of the word "factory." Under the old Act factories with a minimum number of 50 or more labourers came under the Act. Now premises in which 20 or more hands are employed and where power is used come within the Act. Tea gardens and indigo factories which were formally exempted now come under the Act. More registers are required, the hours of work require closer examination, and generally there is need for greater supervision. The number of factories has thus doubled and so there is very much heavier work on the factory inspection staff than before. The staff we had was not adequate for work under the old Act. Indeed 40 to 50 per cent. of the factories were not inspected in 1920 nor even in 1921. Tea garden inspection means a heavy addition to the work because tea gardens are very scattered. We worked out two years ago the staff which we considered to be the minimum necessary to carry out the provisions of the new Act and we came to the conclusion that there should be one Chief Inspector, six inspectors and four assistant inspectors, and a large number of certifying surgeons. So, even if we employ all the inspectors during the coming year for which provision is made we will not have the number which is absolutely necessary. If the work is to be carried on we must have these seven men at least. I therefore press for the full provision which we have made.

The same considerations apply to the whole work in the department. The amount under the head travelling allowance must be increased—the

inspection of different factories in tea gardens alone justifies this. I must therefore oppose all the motions.

The motions of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq, Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri and Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea were then put and lost.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I beg to withdraw my motion.

The following motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 45,000 under the head '37B.—Registration of Traffic' be refused."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I beg leave to withdraw my motions.

The following motions were then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 32,400 for travelling allowances, under the head '37.—Miscellaneous Department' be reduced by Rs. 8,100."

"That the demand of Rs. 2,22,600 under the head '37.—Miscellaneous Departments' for items other than travelling allowances be reduced by Re. 1."

The following motion standing in the name of Maulvi Ekramul Huq was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 2,55,000 under the head '37.—Miscellaneous Department' be reduced by Rs. 50,000."

The original demand under the head "37.—Miscellaneous Department" was then put and agreed to.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Before the Council adjourn the House will be interested to know the names of members who are returned to the various committees. The following is the result of the election of members of the various committees:—

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Banerjea, Dr. Pramathanath.
Carey, Mr. W. L.
Faroqui, Mr. K. G. M.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

POLICE.

Roy, Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh.
Faroqui, Mr. K. G. M.
Chawdhury, Maulvi Fazlal Karim.
Cohen, Mr. D. J.

JUDICIAL AND JAILS.

Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Khan, Maulvi Muhammad Rafique Uddin.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.

IRRIGATION.

Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
De, Rai Bahadur Fanindralal.
Philip, Mr. J. Y.
Suhrawardy, Dr. A.

LAND REVENUE.

Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

Suhrawardy, Dr. A.
Mullick, Babu Nirode Behary.
Jones, Mr. J. A.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.

EDUCATION.

Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan.
Banerjea, Dr. Pramathanath.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.

EXCISE.

Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin.
Dutta, Babu Annada Charan.
Jones, Mr. J. A.
Sinha, Babu Surendra Narayan.

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
Moitra, Dr. Jatindra Nath.
Roy, Raja Maniloll Singh.
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin.
Roy, Raja Maniloll Singh.
Villiers, Mr. F. E. E.

COMMERCE AND MARINE.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Carey, Mr. W. L.
Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal.
Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. Krishna Chandra.

AGRICULTURE.

Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Wasimuddin.
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Rahmatjan.
Travers, Mr. W. L.

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till 3 P.M. on Tuesday, the 27th March, 1923, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 27th March, 1923, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President in the Chair, the four Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council, the three Hon'ble Ministers, and 81 nominated and elected members.

Starred Question

(to which oral answer was given).

Expenditure (voted and non-voted) for Divisional Commissioners and their staff.

***LXXX. Babu SURENDRA NATH MALLIK:** Will the Hon'ble the Member in charge of Department of Finance be pleased to state—

(*i*) what is the total amount of the expense incurred on account of the Divisional Commissioners and their staffs in each of their respective divisions; and

(*ii*) how much of these amounts are—

(*1*) voted, and

(*2*) non-voted,

respectively?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. J. Donald): (*i*) and (*ii*) A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to Starred question No. LXXX showing the expenditure incurred on account of the several Divisional Commissioners and their staff during the year 1921-22.

Division.	Voted expenditure.	Non-voted expenditure.	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Presidency	94,589	36,802	1,31,391
Burdwan	41,992	36,000	77,992
Rajshahi	49,813	36,000	85,813
Dacca	56,811	35,200	92,011
Chittagong	54,444	39,923	94,367
GRAND TOTAL ..	2,97,649	1,83,925	4,81,574

NOTE 1.—The figures Rs. 39,923 under "non-voted" for the Chittagong Division includes the salary of an Additional Commissioner from the 15th June, 1921, to the 24th July, 1921.

NOTE 2.—The total shown above under "non-voted" does not agree with the corresponding figure, Rs. 2,28,723, shown in the Civil Estimates as the actuals for 1921-22, as the latter figure includes the leave allowances drawn by Commissioners on leave.

The Budget for the year 1923-24.

Demands for Grants.

41.—Civil Works.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur): I move that a sum of Rs. 78,80,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "41.—Civil Works."

It will be observed from the Budget Estimates that the estimated expenditure for 1922-23 was Rs. 92,57,000 while the revised estimate for that year has been estimated at Rs. 86,04,000. The amount which the Council is now asked to vote, therefore, shows a reduction of Rs. 7,85,000. This reduction is mainly due to the fact that in the ensuing year's budget no provision has been made for new original works of construction, but only for obligatory works in progress which have reached a stage nearer completion since last year.

Under the head "Original Works—Civil Buildings," it is proposed to spend Rs. 64,000 on works for reserved subjects and Rs. 17,78,000 for transferred subjects. The works will be found detailed in Appendix B to the Financial Statement and are actually in progress and the provision made for them is to bring them as far as possible towards completion.

The sums provided for "Reserve for Minor Works" under the various departments are intended for works of small value in connection with buildings occupied by the departments. These small works are within the powers of the heads of the respective departments to sanction. The total amount for minor works, as proposed for 1923-24, is less by Rs. 35,000 than the amount to be spent in the current year.

Under "Communications" no provision has been made under the reserved voted head, while Rs. 6,76,000 is provided under the transferred head. The works are detailed in Appendix B from which it may be seen that all the provisions are for works already in progress, and being part of a settled programme should not be suspended.

Under the head "Repairs" Rs. 3,80,000 is provided for "reserved" works and Rs. 32,00,000 for those under "transferred" departments compared with the revised estimates of Rs. 2,70,000 and Rs. 30,20,000, respectively, under those heads for the present year. Such an increase is unavoidable as each year there are additions to the list of buildings and other works which the department is called on to maintain, and to increased municipal assessment and to higher rates levied by Railways for goods traffic.

The provision has been regulated by the sum which the Finance Member was able to set aside out of the total available revenue of the

Province for "41.—Civil Works." The demands received from the officers in charge of maintenance and repairs was about 12 per cent. more than the above amount; the inevitable result of such reduction will be a lower standard of repair and consequent depreciation in the capital value of the buildings.

The revised estimate for the "transferred voted" establishment for the year 1922-23 is Rs. 12,83,000 against which a sum of Rs. 13,34,000 has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 1923-24. The increase is, therefore, Rs. 51,000 which is due to the following causes:—

(1) Provision for a larger sum for the annual increment of pay and allowances of officers, subordinates, ministerial officers, and menials.

(2) Provision for the pay of certain establishment recently transferred from "work—charged establishment" to "regular establishment" under the orders of the Government of India, Public Works Department.

(3) Provision for larger sums than those provided in 1922-23 for travelling allowances, contingencies, and supply and services, due to the increased cost of locomotion and high prices of materials. In the budget for 1922-23 a sum less than that demanded by Superintending Engineers was provided, but all of them have now reported that their grants have fallen short of their actual expenditure in spite of their best endeavours to restrict it and they have asked for additional grants under these heads which it is impossible to allot from other sources. In order to avoid the repetition of such an emergency next year an increased amount has been provided. This even is short of the requirements of Superintending Engineers by about Rs. 10,000.

(4) Provision for a larger sum than that provided in the budget for 1922-23 for the amount of contribution payable to the district boards for Public Works Department works to be done by them, as a greater number of works is anticipated to be done by district boards next year.

In preparing the estimate for 1923-24 every item of expenditure has been carefully scrutinized and provision has been made for unavoidable expenditure only. If this provision is found later to be inadequate endeavours will be made to raise it by reappropriation from amounts sanctioned for works in the Civil Works Budget.

But tools and plant Rs. 4,000 and Rs. 1,34,000 have been provided under the heads "Reserved" and "Transferred," respectively, against Rs. 8,000 and Rs. 1,85,000 in the revised estimate for the current year. The decreases are mainly due to the absence of new works.

Under "Grant-in-aid" the provision of Rs. 2,38,000 under the transferred head is normal.

A new head "Loss by Exchange" has been added to the budget in accordance with the orders of the Government of India. The provision of Rs. 40,000 against the current year's revised estimate of Rs. 51,000 is based roughly on the rates of exchange to be fixed by the India Office.

No further remarks appear to be called for. I therefore, Sir, move that the sum of Rs. 78,19,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "41.—Civil Works."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand of Rs. 37,000 under the head "41.—Civil Works" for the construction of the Survey Office buildings at Alipore be reduced by Re. 1."

I have brought forward this proposal before the House with a view to discuss as to what profitable use this building may be put to. We are told that this building is no longer required for the purpose for which it was built. It is proposed to spend Rs. 37,000 next year, but it will cost Government over Rs. 5 lakhs. If it is not required for the purpose for which it is being built or if no profitable use can be made of it, it may be sold. I should like to hear what the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department thinks of this view of the case and it is with this object that I have brought forward this resolution.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 34,000 for settlement offices at Suri under the head "41.—Civil Works" be refused.

During the last few years we have been told that the settlement programme has been curtailed a great deal. During the first years of settlement operations in Bengal we used to see that the settlement officers, including officers like Mr. Beatson Bell used to live in tents when engaged in settlement work. When Mr. Beatson Bell went down to Comilla some time ago he was struck with the magnificent settlement office buildings of Comilla. He is reported to have exclaimed: "Is that the settlement office? I thought it was a palace, I never worked in a building like that." So I suggest that the expenditure of Rs. 34,000 on a settlement office for a small district town like Suri is extravagant. I hope the Hon'ble the Member will see his way to stopping the work.

The following motion standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 72,000 for the reconstruction of subdivisional building, Alipur-Duars, Jalpaiguri, under the head '41.—Civil Works' be refused."

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [LAND REVENUE] (Mr. M. C. McALPIN): I oppose both these motions.

As regards Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri's motion, I think I need only explain the facts. The fact of the matter is that when this building was first planned a four-party survey programme was in force and expected to remain in force. Now that we have adopted a two-party survey programme and have been able to reduce our survey staff, this building is larger than we require for our Survey Office; we are, therefore, able to use this excess space for other purposes.

In the first place, the office of the Director of Land Records is being transferred to the new building now that the Director of Land Records has taken over the duties of the Director of Surveys. In the second place, it will be used as a settlement office of the forthcoming district settlement of the 24-Parganas expected to start in 1924—the traverse survey starts next cold weather. A settlement office gradually assumes very large dimensions and it will probably overflow into the inner courtyard. We are thus saved—and it is exceedingly fortunate for us that we are so saved—the cost of erecting or hiring expensive buildings in Calcutta for this settlement. When the 24-Parganas settlement is over the surplus space will be available, but that is many years ahead and we need not anticipate. I may, however, say that in all probability all the extra space will be required by the Press which is next-door at Chetla.

Both for its use or part thereof as a survey office and during the time it or a part thereof is used as a settlement office, a rent will be assessed on those parts, a portion of which will be recovered from the landlords and tenants of areas under settlement as overhead charges of the settlement. Not only, therefore, will the space be occupied but the occupation of the space in this manner will be a profitable business to Government. Our proposals appear to be more economical and even more profitable than those contemplated by the Retrenchment Committee. I therefore oppose Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri's motion.

As regards Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta's motion, I am not sure whether he has seen the large record room, the very large settlement record room at Barisal. If he had, I do not think he would have cited what Sir Nicholas Beatson Bell said in connection with record rooms. As a matter of fact this demand of Rs. 31,000 is for a small record room at Suri which is absolutely necessary, as will be proved by the cases of Bakarganj and Comilla, that there must be a record room. Not only that, the District Magistrate badly requires additional accommodation at Suri and when the remainder of this record room at Suri is no longer required, that portion of it will be handed over to the District Magistrate for his use; the building is an appendage to the office of the District Magistrate.

I oppose this motion of Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta also.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I ask for leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Before I ask leave to withdraw my motion I would like to know whether the cost of the building will be realised from the Government and not from the tenants.

Mr. M. C. McALPIN: The cost of the buildings will not be realized from the tenants, but what corresponds to a rent of the buildings, whilst they are in the possession of the Settlement Department, will be realized.

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand for Rs. 72,000 for the construction of the Subdivisional Officer's residence at Alipur-Duars, Jalpaiguri district, be reduced by Rs. 40,000.

It is not the reconstruction of subdivisional buildings, but the heavy cost which the scheme involves that is in question. According to the sanctioned estimates it is a scheme which will cost Rs. 2,73,000. It is considered so urgent that up to March, 1922, only Rs. 20,000 was spent for this purpose and last year, although Rs. 40,000 was provided for this scheme, Government could spend only Rs. 28,000. In view of this, I doubt whether Rs. 72,000 will be required for the scheme this year and whether it is at all an urgent scheme.

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: The work for which a reduction of grant has been moved is the rebuilding of the civil buildings at the headquarters of the Alipur-Duars Subdivision of the Jalpaiguri district. The subdivisional buildings are situated on the banks of the Kaljani river and the erosive action of this river at the loop where the buildings are situated has caused grave anxiety for some years past. Measures taken to check the cutting of the bank were without success and after some two or three seasons of ineffectual work it was agreed that the attempt to save the buildings could not succeed.

In the year 1918 it was found that the Subdivisional Officer's residence was in serious danger, and it was dismantled in order to save the materials. The river has since cut away the whole site where this building originally stood. It was then decided to rebuild the whole of the buildings on a new site at some distance from the river and estimates amounting to Rs. 2,73,000 were prepared and sanctioned.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: I rise to a point of order. This motion relates to expenditure on the Subdivisional Officer's residence. There is no expenditure of this amount in 1923-24 on this account as may be seen at page 80 of the Green Book. The Rs. 72,000 is for the construction of the subdivisional building.

Mr. PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. E. A. Cotton): Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri, your motion is out of order; there is no demand for

Rs. 72,900 for the Subdivisional Officer's residence at all. I understand from the Finance Member that there is no demand. You need not trouble to reply further Nawab Sahib, the motion is out of order.

The following motions standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand under the head '41.—Civil Works,' for the construction of a residence for the Additional District and Sessions Judge, Bogra, be refused."

"That the demand for the construction of sub-jail at Patuakhali under the head '41.—Civil Works' be refused."

"That the demand for the construction of new police lines, Khulna, under the head '41.—Civil Works' be refused."

"That the demand for the construction of a small investigating centre at Burichang, under the head '41.—Civil Works' be refused."

"That the demand for the acquisition of land required for the construction of quarters for the married sergeants of the Calcutta Police, under the head '41.—Civil Works' be refused."

Rai FANINDRALAL DE Bahadur: I move that the demand for the Police Surgeons' quarters at Bhowanipore, under the head "41.—Civil Works" be refused.

From the statement published at page 42 of the Grey Book I find that although Rs. 70,000 was sanctioned for the construction of the Police Surgeon's quarters at Bhowanipore, no sum has yet been spent on this building, owing to the fact that the work has not yet begun and contractors have not been employed over it. I believe we can afford to wait for some time until our finances improve. The Hon'ble the Minister has assured us that no provision has been made for any further expenditure except for works which are already in progress, but I think, Sir, that the work under consideration does not come under the category of works in operation, and so it can safely be postponed. I wish to make my point clear. I do not grudge the expenditure, but what I wish to say is that this work should only be taken up when our financial difficulties disappear. That is why I have moved that the grant be refused.

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): The Police Surgeon's residence at the Police Hospital at Bhowanipore formed part of the whole scheme for the police hospital and was therefore sanctioned as part of that scheme. No work has been done on it, and I entirely agree that there are many more urgent purposes for which the money can be spent. We gave instructions last year that it was not to be begun without definite orders from the Police Department, but as it is part of a sanctioned scheme which

has not been completed, it was put down among the works in progress in the ordinary course and appears in the Public Works Department budget. At the same time I do not want to accept this motion, and I would ask the hon'ble member to withdraw it because there are, I am told, a certain number of police buildings among the works in progress for which the Council voted money during the current year which could not be completed owing to the fact that in September last we issued orders that everything was to be closed down in consequence of financial stringency. Work on these buildings therefore was stopped and the money voted by the Council has been surrendered. That means that at the beginning of next year these works will be in a half-finished condition and if there is no money we cannot go on with them. I would ask the Council to allow this amount to stand in the budget on my undertaking that the Police Surgeon's quarters shall not be built this year.

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I beg to move that the demand for Rs. 34,000 for the construction of new cook-rooms, servants' quarters, and garage for professors in the Bengal Engineering College, Sibpur, be reduced by Rs. 10,000.

The Bengal Engineering College, Sibpur, is one of the best institutions in Bengal for the vocational education of the students of this province. We have been crying for the last two years in this Council for the establishment of a technological institute, and in connection with the debate on that resolution, it was suggested by some members of the Council that mechanical engineering and electrical engineering classes should be opened in the Sibpur Engineering College. Sir, it is well known that the Sibpur College is equipped with an excellent professorial staff, with good training in mechanical and electrical engineering, and the smallest amount of commonsense should have convinced any one that whatever money may be spared should go in the direction of opening up a mechanical engineering and electrical engineering classes. But here we find that instead of that, a large amount, as much as Rs. 34,000, is demanded from us—for what? For a cook-room, servants' quarters and garages. I should like to know how many members of this Hon'ble Council have houses worth Rs. 34,000. Very few of them have, I suppose. I am sure that in these days of retrenchment when vocational education cannot be developed in our schools for want of money, we should not be a party to this extravagant expenditure. Fancy the expenditure of Rs. 34,000 for a cook-room, servants' quarters and garages, etc.! It is simply absurd. I hope the Hon'ble the Member will kindly see his way to reduce the demand at least by Rs. 10,000.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Mitter): In spite of the eloquence of my friend, Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta, when I place the facts before the House, the

House, I think, will agree with me that there has been no extravagance. The scheme for the improvement and development of the Bengal Engineering College at Sibpur was inaugurated in 1919. Nothing was done for many years before that. There were various proposals to remove the college from its present site, including a suggestion to remove it to Ranchi. In 1919 the present scheme was accepted. That scheme provided for the demolition of the existing block of servants' quarters, quarters for syces, and other menials; the block of stables were turned into a garage, and certain portion of the out-houses were converted into quarters for laboratory assistants. Since 1919 there have been no servants' quarters or garages and so work had to be taken up. The work is in progress and the Council has already voted money for part of the work. It is more than half-finished. Will it not be extravagance to throw away the money spent on this half-finished building? A big college like the Bengal Engineering College will certainly require servants' quarters, cook-rooms and the professors and lecturers will also need garages to keep their cars. If the Council refuse or reduce this grant, the buildings will remain half-finished.

The other point raised should be considered on its merits; it has nothing to do with refusal of this grant, which, if carried, will result in keeping this building unfinished. As soon as we get money, and regard being had to other demands for more urgent schemes, I can assure Mr. Dutta that we shall take up the question of mechanical and electrical engineering. We have some electrical and mechanical engineering classes of an elementary kind, but not for higher training. The governing body of the college has, I believe, pressed this point on us and as soon as we get money we shall only be too glad to meet the wishes of the Council in this respect.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: Do I understand that the Hon'ble the Minister is taking up the scheme for mechanical and electrical courses in this college?

The Hon'ble Mr. P. C. MITTER: The governing body has, I believe, pressed it upon us, but we have got no money. With due regard to the relative urgency of other schemes, I am anxious to take it up when funds permit.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: After this assurance, I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I move that the demand for Rs. 74,000 under the head "41.—Civil Works" for additions and alterations in the existing Nurses' Home, Medical College Hospital, be refused.

I yield to none in my admiration for the excellent services rendered by the nurses of the Medical College Hospital. Their duties are hard and arduous and no one, therefore, can object to give them decent accommodation or grudge them their little comforts and luxuries. Judged from the European standard of living these girls, till recently, had been rather badly housed, but we can no longer be accused of neglecting them. A palatial building has now been erected for them at a cost of about Rs. 8 lakhs and every acre has been taken to furnish it in the most up to date fashion. There are about 140 nurses and the new building has been furnished to accommodate at present about 100 nurses and I am told that it has sufficient accommodation to house another 100. So, Sir, it would be seen that even if we do not spend anything on the old building, there would be hardly any cause for immediate hardship. This demand, however, is made to give effect to a scheme which proposes to make additions and alterations in the old building with a view to provide for a bigger dining hall and up to date recreation rooms. I have no quarrel with the scheme. But my intention is to point out that before we provide any funds for any scheme of a particular department, we must examine the relative importance, necessity, and urgency of the other outstanding schemes of the department. It might be noticed that while we have already spent quite a fortune to suitably accommodate our nurses we have beyond acquiring a plot of land, done nothing to provide a similar accommodation for our Indian medical students. They are housed in wretched messes. If you see their pitiable condition and compare the two, you will resent it. They, too, have to perform duties like the nurses day and night, their work is also hard and arduous. But they have to live far away from the Medical College, and some of them live three or four huddled together in small rooms, while the rooms themselves are dark and ill-ventilated. Sir, when I turn my eyes from the splendid quarters of the nurses to the wretched messes of the students I really cannot help feeling sorry and bitter. You have fine hostels for the Anglo-Indian Medical students, you have built up palatial quarters for the nurses, but you could not do anything for the Indian boys. Is that fair? Is that decent? Sir, funds could be found for bigger dining and dancing halls for the nurses, but nothing for the boys. Well, Sir, there must be something like relative importance of the schemes for which we are called upon to sanction grants. There ought to be somebody who can judge the relative urgency and necessity of the different schemes. This policy of carrying coals to Newcastle is certainly not creditable to the department. We have got at present a great friend of the student community in our Minister in charge of the Medical Department, and the present Surgeon-General as Principal of the Medical College was well known for his love and care for the boys, and I appeal to them to remove this standing scandal of the department. Sir, I hope an assurance would be forthcoming from the official benches. In that case I would be quite

prepared to withdraw my amendment. For really I do not want to refuse this small demand for the proposed scheme, which, in fact, is a mere flea-bite when compared with the sum of Rs. 8 lakhs already allowed.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: In supporting the motion which has been moved by my friend the Kumar Sahib, I endorse every word that has fallen from his lips. I have nothing further to add, but I would suggest to the Hon'ble the Minister that when the new quarters have been lavishly built, this extension of the old quarters might be postponed for a certain period. It is not the case now that there is want of accommodation for the nurses. I should be the last person to suggest anything that will take away the comforts of the nurses when they are doing such excellent work. But there is a point where we have to cry halt and in view of the retrenchment that is proposed in every department I would suggest that the Hon'ble the Minister and the Surgeon-General might be pleased to consider whether this expenditure might not be postponed to some future time.

SURGEON-GENERAL with the GOVERNMENT of BENGAL (Major-General B. H. Deare): I think if I can narrate a short history of the whole case it will clear away a large number of apprehensions, many of which are not correct.

The question of accommodation at the Medical College Hospital arose first in December, 1917, when the Principal of the Medical College sent a very strong letter to the Government complaining of the utter inadequacy and unsuitability of the existing Nurses' Home and of the dangerous overcrowding which existed in it. We have—and here the Kumar Sahib is wrong—at the present moment in the old Nursing Home 171 souls 144 nurses and 27 *dhais*. The rooms are very small. They are very dark and very badly ventilated and each small room has to accommodate two nurses. There is no privacy whatever. There is only one fan in each room and consequently at night the nurses' beds have to be placed together to get the benefit of the fan which, to say the least, is undesirable and unhealthy. Perhaps the most important fact is that no arrangements are made for nurses who come off night duty. I think, Sir, the members will realise that a nurse who has been on night duty from 8 P.M. to 6-30 in the morning requires, when she comes off duty, to have good rest. In the existing state of affairs she has now to share a badly ventilated room with nurses who are on duty and consequently her sleep is broken. As a result of overcrowding, defective ventilation, want of sleep, the general resistance of the nurses to disease is very considerably lowered. We have had a painful example of what happened recently when the power of resistance is lowered.

The Government at once took up the question and appointed a committee consisting of the then Surgeon-General, the Superintending Engineer, the Principal of the Medical College, Sir Leonard Rogers, and

the Consulting Architect to Government to inquire thoroughly into the whole question. The Committee were also directed to inquire, firstly, as to the possibility of making internal alterations in the existing nurses' quarters with a view to making them more suitable from a sanitary point of view; and secondly, to enquire as to the total number of nurses to be housed in a new nursing home, taking into consideration the possibility of future expansion such as nurses required for the Tropical School and in connection with the new Eye Hospital; and thirdly, they were asked to inquire as to the necessity for enlarging the dining and recreation rooms. The Kumar Sahib has referred to a dancing hall. I do not know where the dancing hall is. There is a recreation room where nurses sit when they are off duty. It may be called similar to your *boitakhana* in your own houses, and if I find a dancing hall I would be the first to ask the Kumar Sahib to come and dance there. (Laughter). The Committee went into the whole question very very carefully and they found that it was necessary to provide, not as the Kumar had said for 100 nurses, but for 200 nurses—171 in the present building, 14 who are at present given accommodation in one of the Carmichael Hospital wards, which should be used for the benefit of the sick, but which has to be used for this purpose, and 15 others who will be engaged as soon as the Eye Hospital is opened. Well, Sir, that is the total of 200 nurses and the Committee put forward a scheme consisting of two parts: one, to build new quarters to accommodate 100 nurses, leaving them to find accommodation for 100 more; and the other to re-model the existing quarters so as to give the remaining nurses single rooms, better ventilated and better equipped. The Committee also recommended that the existing dining room should be considerably enlarged to meet the larger number of nurses required to dine there. This scheme was sanctioned and, as the members of the Council know, a new building has been completed and is now ready for occupation and this demand is made simply to finish the remaining part of the scheme.

In conclusion, I may say that there seems to be some ignorance on the part of some members of the Council with regard to the relationship of the nurses to the Government. The nursing arrangements for the great Calcutta hospitals are being entirely run by the Calcutta Hospital Nurses' Institution, which is one of the oldest and most valuable of the Calcutta charities. This institution raises all the money and pays every penny of all salaries of the sisters and nurses who are engaged in the hospitals; the whole of the dieting charges, uniforms, and leave charges. The institution lends the services of sisters and nurses to the Government and I feel sure that the Council will agree with me when I say that a very heavy moral responsibility rests upon Government to provide adequate housing accommodation for them.

With regard to the question of hostels for Indians which the Kumar Sahib has referred, I may inform him that it is a question which is very

near to my heart and I can assure him on my own behalf that my relationship with the Finance Department with regard to hostels for students will be that of the importunate widow in the Scriptures—I would press and press for them. After what I have said I hope and trust the members will withdraw their motions.

The motion was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved that the demand for Rs. 2,00,000 for the construction of public offices at Maijdi (Noakhali) under the head "41.—Civil Works" be refused.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand for Rs. 2,00,000 for the construction of public offices at Maijdi, Noakhali, under the head "41.—Civil Works" be reduced by Rs. 5,000.

This amount was needed for transferring the headquarters of Noakhali district to a place five miles distant from the town of Noakhali. It was found that the river was encroaching upon the town and that half of the town was eroded. The latest report that we have heard of, is that the river, instead of coming forward is receding. In view of that I should like to suggest that future building work should be put a stop to till the next rainy season, when we can watch the river again.

MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT and POLITICAL DEPARTMENTS (the Hon'ble Mr. H. L. Stephenson): I explained to the Council last August, after paying a visit to Noakhali, what the actual position was. It is quite true that the frontal attack has nearly stopped and the water in the front of the town is silting. But the attack is developing at the side diagonally and during the last heavy erosion season the water from this side approached very close to the police lines. The silting process took place four years ago in the same way, but the erosion started again in the following year and the Public Works Department tell us that they will give us no opinion in favour of the likelihood of the erosion being stopped. They consider it practically certain that the station is doomed. Apart from the diagonal erosion there is always the possibility that the frontal erosion may start again in their view and the question is how long it will take to reach the offices. But in the meantime we cannot sit still and do nothing until all the offices are destroyed. We have got to make some definite arrangements otherwise we may awake one morning and find that we have to move the whole of our staff from Noakhali to Chittagong or to Comilla and to carry on the work of the district at some such place, miles outside of the district proper. What we are doing now is to make the site suitable for building. We are excavating two tanks and with the spill of the tanks we are raising the level of the soil. It has got to be done and that is what we are doing now and in addition to that we are burning a small quantity of bricks. Owing to the unfortunate result of the contracts

we gave in Mymensingh, which we had to cancel, we find a very great reluctance on the part of Eastern Bengal contractors to enter into any contract with Government so long as they are not absolutely certain that the Government will carry out the contract. Therefore we are making small contracts and we are burning just enough bricks to start temporary offices on the new site. If the station does go, we shall have to build temporary offices at once on this new site. These temporary buildings would cost Rs. 64,000 and we should also at once have to take in hand the burning of bricks in the cold weather for the new station and that will more than absorb the rest of these two lakhs. I think therefore, the Council will do well to keep the money in this Budget. I am as anxious as anybody else not to incur any unnecessary expenditure. We are watching it very carefully, but on the whole I think we are taking a gambler's chance.

The motions were then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Babu BHISHMADEV DAS: I move that the demand of Rs. 2,00,000 under the head "41.—Civil Works" for laying Maidan roads with tar-macadam metalling, be refused.

This does not seem to be very urgent and can safely be postponed I therefore hope Government will be pleased to accept this view.

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: It is an extraordinary proposal that the primary duty of the Calcutta Corporation should be undertaken by the Bengal Government. We have found, times without number, that the Bengal Government are asked to metal some roads outside or inside the Maidan or to macadamize a road in Calcutta. These are the primary duties of the Calcutta Corporation. I think the Government does pay a lot of money for the benefit of the Calcutta people and it is time that this sort of undertaking the responsibility of the Corporation's duties should be put a stop to with a strong hand.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: As I said on a previous occasion the position of the Calcutta Maidan is somewhat peculiar. It is owned by the Government of India—it is used by the Calcutta people and maintained by the Government of Bengal. I cannot understand, Sir, why the rural people who wade through mud in going from one place to another, should be made to pay for parks and promenades in certain parts of Calcutta, and bear the cost of tar-macadamizing roads on the Maidan. In this connection I have to draw the attention of the Government to the reply that was given by the Government of India to a question put in the Legislative Assembly by Mr. J. Chaudhuri. "The Government of India," replied Mr. Burdon, "incur no expenditure on the upkeep of the Maidan. As to roads, with the exception of those leading to the Fort, the annual expenditure on which amounts to Rs. 4,000, approximately, no roads are maintained from central revenues." And further: "There is no proposal under consideration to

hand these roads over to the Calcutta Corporation." May I ask, Sir, why the Government of Bengal do not make such a proposal to the Government of India?

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ addressed the Council in vernacular in support of the motion.

The following motion standing in the name of Rai Fanindralal De Bahadur was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 2,00,000 for laying Maidan roads with tar-macadam metalling under the head '41.—Civil Works' be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: I move that the demand of Rs. 1,10,000 for laying tar-macadam surface on the Calcutta Strand Road be refused.

The motion was supported by Shah Syed Emdadul Haq and Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri.

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (Mr. J. T. Donovan): The grounds apparently on which these motions have been moved are that the Maidan should be made over to the Calcutta Corporation or to the Government of India, if I have understood the speakers aright. Well, the Maidan has some connection with the Fort and I suppose it is for this reason that it has not been made over to the Corporation, and is excluded from the Corporation area. How therefore can we expect the Corporation to undertake the repair of roads in the Maidan or maintain roads which are not within their area? On the question as to why the Government of India should not maintain these Maidan roads it should be remembered that the Government of India retain the Maidan for military purposes in connection with the Fort, and as much in the interest of the Government of Bengal as of the Government of India. The Government of India get no other benefit from the Maidan and if their hands are forced the Government of India may take it into their head to fence off the Maidan with the result that Calcutta will be deprived of its single lung. I do not think that the Council will risk forcing their hands to this. As no figures were discussed I do not think it is necessary for me to go into figures.

The motions of Babu Bhishmadev Das and Babu Indu Bhushan Dutta were then put and lost.

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 1,78,000 for travelling allowances under the head '41.—Civil Works—Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 44,500."

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand for Rs. 17,78,000 on account of original works (Buildings) under the head "41A.—Civil Works (Transferred portion)" be reduced by Rs. 7,00,000; and that the demand for Rs. 13,34,000 on account of establishment under the head "41A.—Civil Works (Transferred portion)" be reduced by Rs. 7,00,000.

I find that the expenditure shown under the sub-head "Buildings" for the current year is less than what was incurred in the last year, and in the coming year's budget a further reduction is shown. This is very good, and I ask the Hon'ble the Minister in charge to go further and reduce the demand under this head by a further Rs. 7 lakhs. This is a year of stringency and all avoidable expenditure should be postponed till the financial position of the province improves. In some cases the commencement of buildings has not yet been made; in other cases the addition of block may be put off without any inconvenience. My friends who have spoken before me have already dealt with many of the items of expenditure under this head, such as, settlement buildings, residences for judicial officers, police lines at Khulna, and so on. I will not take up the time of the Council by referring to them, but I will refer to one matter, namely, buildings for the Agricultural Middle School at the Chinsura Farm. It is proposed to spend Rs. 40,000 this year in addition to the Rs. 82,000 spent in the current year. This is certainly an extravagant expenditure. We want more agricultural schools to be established within the province, but if a school building costs so much public funds we will never be able to start as many schools as we want. I therefore urge the Hon'ble the Minister to curtail the expenditure under this head by a reasonable figure.

As for the second part of my motion, the Retrenchment Committee have recommended a reduction of Rs. 8 lakhs under the head "Establishment." My proposal is more modest, and I have only to urge that the motion be accepted by Government.

The following motion standing in the name of Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 13,34,000 under the head '41A.—Civil Works Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 4,00,000."

Rai LALIT MOHAN SINGH ROY Bahadur: I move that the demand for Rs. 73,71,000 under the head "41A.—Civil Works (Transferred)" be reduced by Rs. 5,00,000.

The excessive growth of expenditure under this department has been a matter of criticism for the last two years. The department being conscious of this, is cutting down its expenditure, but I beg to draw the attention of the House to the fact that whereas the activities of the department are decreasing, nevertheless its establishment charges are increasing. The posts of officers have been retained, notwithstanding the fact, that

the work of the department has decreased. The votable amount of 1921-22 under the establishment charges was a little more than Rs. 10,50,000; in 1922-23 it rose to a little less than Rs. 13,00,000 and the establishment for the ensuing year has been fixed as Rs. 13,34,000. These figures exclude the non-votable charges which have also increased. This department employs two Chief Engineers, five Superintending Engineers, nearly 40 Executive and Assistant Executive Engineers and a host of Assistant Engineers and Overseers. Besides them, we have three Consulting Architects, one Electrical Adviser, one Electrician, three Electrical Engineers, one Plumbing Expert and some Temporary Engineers. I request the Hon'ble the Minister to make an inquiry into the nature of their work and to reduce the number, keeping only those whom we need.

But as this requires time and investigation, I leave it to the consideration of the Hon'ble the Minister, but in the meantime, I suggest only a modest cut of Rs. 1,00,000 under this head. The next cut I propose to make is under "Repairs." In the Appendix B of the Green Book, I notice that the department has been in haste to spend up the original sanctioned amount of the building department. In majority of cases, this has been done this year. The same spirit has manifested itself in the ensuing year's budget. A detailed examination will show that a cut to the amount of Rs. 4,00,000 can safely be made if we only sanction the amount which was budgeted in the last year. Thus my total reduction amounts to Rs. 5,00,000 which can easily be effected.

In conclusion, I beg to repeat what I said last year that instead of the expenditure of this department being charged to revenue account, a separate capital expenditure might be opened; the bulk of the sums required might be raised by public loans. The Government will only be responsible for the sinking fund and the interest charges. To do this and to run it on commercial basis, heavy reductions in its establishment charges ought to be made and the department will also have to undertake to manufacture some of the building materials. I suggest for the next budget and in the meantime this cut of Rs. 5,00,000, I hope, the House will agree to accept.

The following motion standing in the name of Raja Manmatha Nath Ray Choudhury was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 73,71,000 under the head '41A.—Civil Works (Transferred)' be reduced by Rs. 3,71,000."

Mr. BIJOYPROSAD SINGH ROY: As almost all the important items of expenditure in which reduction was possible has been exhausted, I simply beg to move the following motion which stands in my name:—

"That the demand for Rs. 73,71,000 under the head '41A.—Civil Works (Transferred)' be reduced by Rs. 3,00,000."

The following motions were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: "That the demand under the head '41.—Civil Works' for items other than travelling allowances be reduced by Re. 1."

Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: "That the demand of Rs. 78,19,000 under the head '41.—Civil Works' be reduced by Rs. 6,00,000."

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Jatindra Nath Basu was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 78,19,000 under the head '41.—Civil Works' be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000."

The Hon'ble the Nawab SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur: If the reductions of grant are carried the result will be that work under one or more of the following sub-heads will be affected:—

(1) Buildings; (2) Communications; (3) Repairs; (4) Establishment; (5) Tools and Plant; (6) Grants-in-aid; (7) Stock and Suspense.

Under "Buildings and Communications" funds required to progress economically towards the completion of works for which money has been voted for the past two years by the Council have been included. A reduction has already been made in the Public Works Department demands before this budget was presented and there is no margin left from which further reductions can be effected, unless it be the intention of this Council to stop works for which in previous years they have voted funds. This course would entail breach of contract and consequent claims against Government.

Under "Repairs" the amount provided is far short of actual requirements but the Public Works Department has had to reduce its demands in accordance with the provision which the Finance Department has been able to provide. That department has already reduced the demands of the Public Works Department about 12 per cent., and any further reduction will mean that the standard of upkeep must be lowered, with a consequent depreciation in the value of valuable property.

The demand for "Establishment" has been made on the understanding that the normal strength of establishment required to carry out the works now in progress will be employed. In order to effect a retrenchment in expenditure I issued orders early in February last to all Superintending Engineers that establishment was to be reduced as much as possible consonant with efficiency, and the first step which I took was to dispense with the services of a considerable number of temporary men. As a further step a small committee was formed to inspect Executive

Engineers' offices and report with the least possible delay how much non-essential routine and accounts work could be abolished, and the steps they recommend in order to reduce non-professional work in these offices. The result of a considerable reduction of such work would be to reduce a certain amount of staff.

The committee is now in the course of inspecting offices both in Calcutta and out in the districts. Until their report is received, and for some time after, it will not be possible to say what reductions in establishment can be made, for references to the Government of India will have to be made, and our decisions on some of the recommendations must be influenced by the agreement or refusal of the Government of India.

In the circumstances it is obviously impossible for me to agree to accept a lump sum reduction of any specified amount before I know what changes can be made without impairing the efficiency of the department The acceptance of any reduction running into lakhs of rupees must necessarily entail the dismissal of a very large number of the permanent staff.

Under "Tools and Plant" the department has asked for Rs. 25,000 less than in 1922-23 owing to the curtailment of the building programme during the previous two years, and the resulting reduction of original work in the coming year.

The amount asked for "Grants-in-aid" is an obligatory charge on account of annual contributions to district boards and other local bodies, which, before 1922, was paid by the several departments of Government, but is now adjusted in the accounts of the Public Works Department and is therefore shown in the Civil Works Budget.

"Stock and Suspense" shows a slight increase and is only an estimated provision of funds to meet the cost of stock unexpended on works and other amounts which it may not be found possible to debit finally to their proper heads of account during the year.

In view of the circumstances which I have explained I must oppose the motions for reduction of grant.

The motions of Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea, Rai Lalit Mohan Singh Roy Bahadur and Mr. Bijoyprosad Singh Roy were then put and lost.

The original demand under the head "41.—Civil Works" was then put and agreed to.

43.—Famine Relief and Insurance.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: I move that a sum of Rs. 50,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "43.—Famine Relief and Insurance."

This is explained in the Green Book and I do not think I need add anything.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

45.—SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: I move that a sum of Rs. 46,50,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "45.—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions."

The motion was then put and agreed to.

46.—STATIONERY AND PRINTING.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: I move that a sum of Rs. 22,90,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "46.—Stationery and Printing."

As various amendments for reduction have been made, I might refer to the statement that I made during the discussion on the budget in which I pointed out that the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee with regard to Stationery and Printing were really recommendations based on what we are ourselves doing in the Finance Department. It is possible that our ultimate reductions may be more than what they have recommended, or they may be less; but at the present moment we are in some difficulty because our press has to be removed from the Writers' Buildings to the new building at Chetla, and until this is done we cannot foretell how expenditure can be curtailed. Besides, contracts have already been entered into for 1923-24.—This year we must have the money asked for, and I can assure the House that where retrenchment can be effected it will certainly be done.

The following motions were, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 11,90,000 under the head '46.—Stationery and Printing—Stationery supplied from Central Stores' be reduced by Rs. 80,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 10,000 under the head '46B.—Government Presses—Bengal Secretariat Press—Purchase and repair of plant and furniture' be reduced by Rs. 5,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 10,000 under the head '46B.—Government Presses—Bengal Secretariat Press—Rents, rates and taxes' be reduced by Rs. 2,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 74,573 under the head '46B.—Government Presses—Bengal Secretariat Press—Other Contingent charges' be reduced by Rs. 14,573."

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: "That the demand for Rs. 36,000 under the head '46B.—Darjeeling Branch Press be refused."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 36,000 under the head '46B.—Government Presses—Darjeeling Branch Press' be reduced by Rs. 2,500."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 4,304 under the head '46A.—Government Presses—Allowances, Honoraria, etc.,' be reduced by Rs. 1,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 2,43,903 under the head '46A.—Government Presses—Supplies and Services—Contingencies' be reduced by Rs. 35,000."

Babu SURENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: That the demand of Rs. 10,27,000 under the head '46A.—Government Presses' be reduced by Rs. 2."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ: "That the demand for Rs. 2,000 under the head '46.—Stationery and Printing—Printing at Private Presses (Reserved)' be reduced by Rs. 1,000."

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand for Rs. 22,90,000 under the head "46.—Stationery and Printing (Reserved and Transferred)" be reduced by Rs. 8,00,000.

The Retrenchment Committee have made certain recommendations in this respect, and I believe there is a desire on the part of the Finance Department also to cut down expenditure under this head. In my opinion it will be quite possible to reduce the expenditure under this head by Rs. 8,00,000.

The following motions were, in the absence of the members, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Rai UPENDRA LAL RAY Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 22,90,000 under the head '46.—Stationery and Printing' be reduced by Rs. 2,10,000."

Babu INDU BHUSHAN DUTTA: "That the demand of Rs. 22,90,000 under the head '46.—Stationery and Printing' be reduced by Rs. 1,50,000."

Babu JATINDRA NATH BASU: "That the demand for Rs. 22,90,000 under the head '46.—Stationery and Printing' be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000."

The following motions were, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Mr. S. M. BOSE: "That the demand for Rs. 22,90,000 under the head '46.—Stationery and Printing' be reduced by Rs. 50,000."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI and Rai NIBARAN CHANDRA DAS GUPTA Bahadur: "That the demand for Rs. 22,90,000 under the head '46.—Stationery and Printing' be reduced by Re. 1."

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: As I have already said, attempts will be made to give effect to the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, but I am afraid it will not be possible to do much during the current year, as contracts have already been entered into. Reductions may be possible next year but I am afraid we cannot do anything this year. I therefore oppose the motion.

Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea's motion was then put and lost.

The original demand under the head "46.—Stationery and Printing" was then put and agreed to.

47.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: I move that a sum of Rs. 3,37,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "47. Miscellaneous"

This is explained on page 179 of the budget estimates and I need not say anything further.

The following motion standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs 19,700 under the head '47B.—Petty Establishment Circuit Houses' be reduced by Rs. 1,000."

SHAH SYED EMDADUL HAQ moved—

(*i*) that the demand for Rs. 18,000 under the head "47B.—Other Petty Establishments" be reduced by Rs. 2,000;

(*ii*) that the demand for Rs. 37,000 under the head "47.—Miscellaneous—Petty Establishments" be reduced by Rs. 3,000;

(*iii*) that the demand for Rs. 8,000 under the head "47D.—Contributions" be reduced by Rs. 1,000; and

(*iv*) that the demand for Rs. 1,17,700 under the head "47E.—Miscellaneous and Unforseen Charges" be reduced by Rs. 60,000.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand for Rs. 1,17,700 under the head "47E.—Miscellaneous and Unforseen Charges" be reduced by Rs. 50,000.

I do not know what these miscellaneous and unforeseen charges are. But it comes next to the sub-head, namely, the provision for the internment of British subjects under the Defence of India Act, 1915, and the Ingress into India Ordinance, 1914, and therefore looks suspicious. I should like to have some information on the point from Mr. Donald.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: There is nothing much in this. This provision is meant for meeting unforseen charges. When we want money for certain purposes for which there is no provision, money is transferred from this head to other appropriate major heads. There is a sum of a lakh devoted for this and earmarked for no particular purpose. The balance Rs. 17,000 is made up of small amounts of miscellaneous expenditure.

As regards the Shah Sahib's motions, I am prepared to accept (*i*). The others, (*ii*) to (*iv*), I oppose.

The following motion was then put and agreed to:—

"(*i*) That the demand for Rs. 18,000 under the head '47B.—Other Petty Establishments' be reduced by Rs. 2,000."

The following motions standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq were then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

"(*ii*) That the demand for Rs. 37,000 under the head '47.—Miscellaneous—Petty Establishment' be reduced by Rs. 3,000."

"(*iii*) That the demand for Rs. 8,000 under the head '47D.—Contributions' be reduced by Rs. 1,000."

"(*iv*) That the demand for Rs. 1,17,700 under the head '47E.—Miscellaneous and Unforseen Charges' be reduced by Rs. 60,000"

Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea's motion was then put and lost

The original demand under the head "47.—Miscellaneous" as amended in Council was then put and agreed to.

52.—MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: I move that a sum of Rs. 40,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "52.—Miscellaneous Adjustments."

This is explained on page 182 of the budget estimates.

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand for Rs. 31,000 for cost of training in England of Forest Officers under the head "52.—Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments" be refused.

In this connection I desire to protest against the policy of training Forest Officers in England. There is no School of Forestry in India of the higher grade and only subordinate officers of this department are trained in various places within the country. This is very undesirable, and because of this policy we have to import Forest Officers of the higher grade from England. I think Indians should be trained in the Forest schools established here, so that the expert knowledge gained by them may remain in the country.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE [FORESTS] (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): According to the arrangements existing prior to the introduction of the Reforms, all costs in connection with the training of Imperial Forest Service Officers had to be borne by the Government of India. Now these costs have been provincialized on account of the Reforms, and the cost of the training of such officers has to be borne by the local Government. These costs include the overhead charges of the expenditure of the Director of Indian Forest Studies and the allowances given to the Forest Officers under training, who are under agreement to refund it if they fail to come to India. The amount entered in the Budget is a guess at the bill which we shall be expected to pay based on the bill we had to pay for four officers this year; we shall certainly have to pay it.

Now, as regards Dr. Banerjea's motion, the question of training in England *versus* training in India was dealt with in Mr. Hullah's speech in the Legislative Assembly on the 11th September, 1922, as follows:—

> This matter has a somewhat long history. The Public Services Commission recommended that there should be established in India an institution for training in forestry up to the very highest standard, and they recommended that this institution should be at Dehra Dun, where we have at present a college for training Indians for the provincial branch of the service. The local Governments, for various reasons, which it would take me too long to detail now, were almost unanimously against this proposal that is to train all recruits, British and Indians in India at Dehra Dun. In deference to this opinion the Government of India, who formerly had been in favour of the training of recruits at Dehra Dun, went back on their opinion and recommended to the Secretary of State that recruitment should be in England and India and that training should be in England. The Secretary of State was not prepared to accept that solution, but since the whole question of training was coming before the Imperial Forestry Conference in England, he agreed to postpone the matter, and he asked the Government of India to obtain as much opinion as possible on the subject, laying special emphasis on the need for obtaining Indian opinion.

Thereupon we ourselves consulted certain officials, the Indian Association, the Central National Muhammadan Association and the Registrars of the Calcutta and Dacca Universities, and, after considering their opinion, we adhered to our previous opinion that European recruits should be trained in Great Britain and that for Indian recruits a higher grade college should be established at Dehra Dun. We also stated that if a joint training were regarded as essential, then the training should take place at Dehra Dun. The last news of the matter which we have received is that though Mr. Hullah moved the resolution in the Legislative Assembly last September for a training in Europe, a motion was adopted in that Assembly that all recruits for the Indian Forest Service should be trained at Dehra Dun as soon as the necessary arrangements could be made and meanwhile the present method of recruitment should continue. The difficulty is of course the expense. On this matter we await orders, and we do not know what will happen. Meanwhile, even in accordance with this motion that the present method of recruitment should continue,

we shall have to pay this bill for the training of officers we have already obtained and for which we have to pay.

For these reasons I would ask Dr. Banerjea to withdraw his motion. I oppose it on behalf of Government.

The motion was then put and lost.

The original demand under the head "52.—Miscellaneous Adjustments" was then put and agreed to.

EXPENDITURE IN ENGLAND.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. DONALD: I move that a sum of Rs. 12,19,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "Expenditure in England."

This amount is made up of various items of expenditure which is incurred by the High Commissioner in London on behalf of the Government of Bengal.

The motion was put and agreed to.

55.—CONSTRUCTION of IRRIGATION, NAVIGATION and DRAINAGE WORKS.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION (the Hon'ble the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan): I move that a sum of Rs. 4,55,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "55.—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation and Drainage Works."

If hon'ble members will look up this head in the Grey Book they will see that the demand under the head 55 is minus Rs. 4,44,000. As I cannot ask for a minus grant, however glad the members of the House would be to give it, I am asking for a positive grant of Rs. 4,55,000; and some explanation is necessary to show how this figure is obtained.

If members will look up page 75 of the Grey Book, head 55, right hand column, they will see—

		Rs.
Item 8 Works	.	4,95,000
Item 9 Establishment	..	45,000
Item 14 Loss by Exchange	...	1,65,000
Item 15 Works	...	16,60,000
Item 16 Establishment	...	1,38,000
Item 21 Loss by Exchange	...	1,60,000
Total	..	26,63,000

Of this sum of Rs. 26,63,000, Rs. 12,33,000 has been transferred to head 16 and has already been voted on. Besides this, Rs. 9,75,000 which is made up of "Irrigation," in the High Commissioner's Budget—

		Rs.
Appendix C on page 86	...	6,50,000
Item 14 under 55	.	1,65,000
Item 21 under 55		1,60,000
Total		9,75,000

has also to be deducted from this head because it is payment made in England.

The total deduction is, therefore—

	Rs
Transferred to head 16	12,33,000
Transferred to High Commissioner's Budget	9,75,000
Total to be deducted	22,08,000
Deducting this from the figure given above, i.e.,	26,63,000
We get	4,55,000,

which is the present demand.

I will now explain what the various items 8, 9, 14, 15, 16 and 21 consist of.

Item 8 is for the cost of the *Ronaldshay* dredger, and the figure is supplied by the High Commissioner.

Item 9 is to provide funds to keep the establishment of the Grand Trunk Canal till the whole project is put before the Council This is held up because the Finance Department has not yet determined how this project is to be financed. As soon as this is finished this project will be finally put before the Council.

Items 14 and 21 are the difference in exchange between 1*s.* 4*d.* and 2*s* to the Rupee on account of payments in England.

Item 15 is made up of—

		Rs.
Construction of *Cowley and Burdwan*	.	4,80,000
Tolly's Nulla Demarcation	.	5,000
Widening Madaripur Bhil route	...	7,75,000
Dredging Bidyadhari, etc.	..	4,00,000

which have all been considered except the first item and voted on under head 16.

Item 16 is Establishment. This is the part of Establishment that is divided up under this head, simply *pro rata*. The establishment distributed between heads XIII, 15, 16 and this head, in proportion to the amount of the expenditure under this head.

With this explanation I move that the sum of Rs. 4,55,000 be granted under the head.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I move that the demand for Rs. 45,000 under the head "55B.—Productive Works—Establishment" be refused.

This is a demand for the votable portion of the cost of the establishment maintained for the purpose of revising the estimate of the Grand Trunk Canal Scheme. The revised estimate, I understand, is ready and is at present being considered by the Government. The question of granting this demand, therefore, depends on our decision as to whether this scheme should be given effect to or not. This scheme, as the House must be aware, was originally mooted by the mercantile community of Calcutta with a view to supplying an alternative shorter inland steamer route between Calcutta and Assam. Accordingly, a definite scheme was prepared by Mr. Lees in 1913, which, however, was turned down by the Government of India owing to its unproductive nature. On the persistent demand of the Steamer Companies in 1916, Mr. Addams-Williams was asked to prepare a cheaper scheme connecting Maniktala by an inland steamer route with the Kalinagar on the alignment of the Kulti Canal. This scheme was further developed and provided for a direct route to the Hooghly. This scheme was revised by the Government of India and was estimated to cost Rs. 309 lakhs yielding a return of 7·4 per cent. on the outlay. And its necessity was urged on the ground of the silting up of the main Sundarbans route. In 1920 this scheme received the sanction of the Secretary of State for India and an order was placed in England for a new dredger. This was during the pre-Reform days when the Government of India shared half the cost of such schemes with the local Government. With the inauguration of the Reforms this was made an entirely provincial matter, and in the budget of 1921, a demand was made in the Council for the sanction of the balance of the price of the dredger. The Council strongly protested against giving effect to the scheme on the great probability of its turning out a losing concern. The Council, however, sanctioned the demand on the understanding that the working of the scheme would be kept in abeyance and the whole project would be further examined and its productive character proved. As a result, as I have said already, this scheme has been revised again by Mr. Addams-Williams and is claimed by him to be necessary as well as productive. There is, however, a considerable misgiving in the informed circle regarding the necessity, utility, and productivity of the project. This matter

was brought to the notice of the Hon'ble the Member in charge by the Irrigation Standing Committee and he very kindly arranged for a lecture on the subject by Mr. Addams-Williams. Amongst other things, Mr. Addams-Williams laid special stress on the deterioration of the channels in the Western Sundarbans. According to him they could be maintained only at an enormous recurring cost of nearly Rs. 8 lakhs a year, and even then only for a comparatively short period as he pointed out that the channel rivers were bound to die out sooner or later. This would mean the complete cutting off of the water route between Assam and Calcutta. As to the utility of the proposed canal he said that besides providing for a safe and certain water route, it would shorten the distance between Khulna and Calcutta by 135 miles, which would conduce to the increase of the river-borne trade and traffic. Referring to the financial aspect of the project he assured us that it would bring in a return of over 13 per cent. on the outlay. Sir, these were the words of an expert of considerable experience and to us, lay people they could not but carry great weight On the other hand, however, his scheme has been severely criticized by the public and many of them are very emphatic in their condemnation. I would, therefore, be failing in my duty if I were not to place their views before the House. References have been made to the statement of Mr. Cowley in the Bengal Legislative Council so late as in 1918 in which he declared that the existing route including the Do-Agra channel was not in imminent danger of being silted up. This channel had to be dredged once in 1920 at a cost of Rs. 16,000 only, and it is asserted that it is an absurd overestimate to say that the dredging in future would cost Rs. 8 lakhs a year. Reference is also made to the alternative route *viâ* Kankrabonia channel which Mr. Addams-Williams himself, in his lecture to the Sibpur College students in 1920, asserted to be a great success. It is again affirmed by competent men, men who have held very high positions in the Engineering Service under the Government, that by a proper control of the ebb and flood tides the whole water-course could be well maintained for an indefinite period and they pointed out the success attained by Mr. Addams-Williams himself in the Madaripur Bhil and Kankrabonia channals. Grave doubts are also expressed regarding the stability of the Grand Trunk Canal and Mr. Addams-Williams' own authority is quoted regarding the sudden changeable character of the river courses in its eastern approaches which might render the whole canal absolutely useless. Dying conditions of some of these rivers are also referred to. The effect of these local conditions on the Madaripur Bhil route, which is practically a continuation of the proposed canal, and the huge expenses which are being incurred to maintain it in proper order are also pointed out in support of this theory. The control and utilisation of all available water from the neighbouring bhils and streams for the maintenance of the canal in the dry season, it is said, would interfere with the drainage of the country and produce the most harmful effect on its

sanitation and agriculture. And the provisions for outlet of the surplus storm water on the north of the canal are considered to be most inadequate and to constitute a grave menace to the neighbouring villages. Even the effect of the interference with the natural drainage caused by the existing Kulti canal is pointed out to be sufficient evidence in support of this theory. Sir, when doctors differ like this, it is absolutely impossible for lay minds to come to any definite conclusion. So, in any case the scheme should be scrutinized and overhauled by other independent experts or a body of experts.

But it is on the financial side that this scheme has been assailed rather the most mercilessly. It is contended that the expenses have been estimated at an abnormally low figure. It is pointed out that the last estimate of Mr. Addams-Williams on a revision by the Inspector-General of Irrigation had to be increased from Rs. 288 lakhs to Rs. 309 lakhs. It is further pointed out that, in the present revised estimate, Mr. Addams-Williams himself had to increase materially the estimates of almost all items of expenditure on actual work and also on tools and plant and some of these items have been doubled or trebled. On the actual work the estimates had to be raised from Rs. 175 lakhs to Rs. 212 lakhs an increase of Rs. 37 lakhs even on the assumption that some of the originally proposed works would not be necessary, and on tools and plants from Rs. 6 lakhs to Rs. 22 lakhs, an increase of Rs. 16 lakhs. He has, however, reduced the total estimate from Rs. 309 lakhs to Rs. 280 lakhs by eliminating altogether the cost for the acquisition of land which was originally estimated at Rs. 53 lakhs. He has taken an ultra-optimistic view in the matter and claims instead to make a profit of Rs. 10 lakhs by selling surplus lands. His calculations are absolutely misleading inasmuch as we shall have to find Rs. 53 lakhs in the beginning to acquire lands whereas whether we would at all be able to sell the surplus land at Rs. 63 lakhs or not is absolutely problematic. In the contingencies he has shown a reduction of Rs. 15 lakhs. This is absurd on the face of it. He has executed this feat by making his calculations on a 5 per cent. basis whereas in the old estimate it was on a 15 per cent. And, Sir, the latter is the recognized principle on which contingencies are always calculated everywhere and that even this is an underestimate is amply borne out by our budget figures. Then, Sir, the price of the dredgers he has altogether omitted from his estimate. For the new dredger *Ronaldshay* he has allowed only a depreciation for the period it would be utilized in this canal and after which he would transfer the balance of the price to other future schemes in which the dredger might be used. This is really a very clever way of preparing an estimate. Two dredgers are to be employed in this canal. But even the depreciation estimate on two new dredgers would be a huge amount. He, therefore, utilizes the services of the old dredger *Foyers* for this canal and a new dredger has been purchased at a cost of Rs. 50 lakhs to replace it and charged under the head in which the *Foyers* is now employed.

This I should say is a masterpiece in what financiers call window-dressing. And the price at which he acquires the *Foyers* for this project is the ridiculausly low amount of Rs. 1,88,000. Sir, this is how we have got a productive scheme. You will perhaps pull me up if I give it its true name, so I would indulge in an equivocation and call it a mere engineer's joke. Sir, even from the layman's point of view this estimate of Rs. 280 lakhs is an underestimate by at least Rs. 150 lakhs.

[Here the member reached his time-limit but was allowed to go on for two minutes.]

And the interest charges during the first ten years, *i.e.*, non-paying period, would come up to another Rs. 170 lakhs at least. Thus the whole scheme is going to cost us, at the lowest reasonable estimate, Rs. 600 lakhs. Even if we deduct from this amount the sum of Rs. 50 lakhs on account of recoupment by sale of surplus stores and lands the net cost would be about Rs. 550 lakhs.

Now coming to the revenue side, on the completion of the scheme, we find that Mr. Addams-Williams estimates an annual income from tollage Rs. 16 lakhs and from the harbour and other miscellaneous items about Rs. 6 lakhs. And the ordinary maintenance charges he estimates at Rs. 9½ lakhs which, again, is an underestimate from our experience of Orissa, Midnapore, and Madaripur canals. Thus, Sir, even viewing through the optimistic eyes of Mr. Addams-Williams there is a net annual income of Rs. 12½ lakhs which means, on an outlay of Rs. 550 lakhs at least, a return of 2·2 per cent only. I might as well remind the House that we shall have to find this sum of Rs. 550 lakhs from our provincial revenues. Then Sir, even his estimate of the amount of goods to be carried through the canal is an overestimate. He estimates it at 65,000,000 maunds a year, but the returns of the Madaripur Bhil route through which almost the whole traffic of Assam and East Bengal is carried show that, on an average, only 38,800,000 maunds pass through the canal.

I have finished now. It is apparent that from the financial point of view this scheme is sure to be an absolute failure. As to its necessity for keeping open the only water route to Calcutta there is a considerable difference of opinion. In the circumstances the scheme should be kept in abeyance at present and further inquiries should be made into the condition of the existing steamer route and whether it can possibly be maintained in proper order.

Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: After the elaborate speech of the Kumar Sahib I do not think any more speech is necessary in support of this motion. I would, however, touch upon a few points only. The other day, the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Irrigation Department said: "When I introduced the budget last year, in fact, the present year, I mentioned the estimates of the Grand Trunk Canal

project were not ready and for that purpose we had to keep the establishment on to revise the estimates and to present such estimates as will convince the members of the Legislative Council of the necessity of such a scheme as well as of the scheme being a productive one. Since then, this has been done." Although we have not got as yet the revised estimate prepared by Mr. Addams-Williams, if it is a fact that this has been done, I do not understand what is the necessity of continuing the establishment any further. However, I do not forget that the Hon'ble the Member in reply to the budget speeches observed the other day that in view of the urgency and necessity of the Grand Trunk Canal project the Government would be well adivsed to continue the establishment and not to dispense with it now. If that be the case, if the Government is going to make up its mind, certainly it behoves us to consider the Grand Trunk Canal scheme and to examine it in detail.

To put it in a nutshell the whole case for the Grand Trunk Canal as explained by Mr. Addams-Williams the other day seems to be this, viz., the Do-Agra Channel, which is the gateway of Sundarbans and which connects the Channel Creek with Sabtarmukhi, is silting up and that the whole system of river communication comprising about 50 miles from the Channel Creek to the Malta system is rapidly deteriorating. Why? Because, firstly, of reclamation; and secondly, of there being in more than one place "the tidal meeting grounds" as they are called. So far as the present route, *i.e.*, Sundarbans route is concerned, beyond these 50 miles all is safe because as Mr. Addams-Williams says, "there is not a single river in the unreclaimed area which is deteriorating." Therefore, it is only a question of 50 miles. Now, Sir, instead of this precarious 50 miles of river route what is the Grand Trunk Canal offering us? Well, a canal the river part of which is 96 miles and every bit of which passes through fully reclaimed areas and not only so, but which abounds in many a tidal meeting ground, such as, Kaksiali, which connects the Jabuna and the Habragang, Assasuni connecting the Kalpato and the Kaptok and Dhaki coming between the Kapotak and the Passar, to name only a few, among others. If the Do-Agra, which had a width of 1½ miles in 1897, could in 26 years deteriorate to a shallow stream of 200 feet; if rivers, which were fully alive only a few years ago, are now in a moribund condition, what certainty is there that the river part of the canal, on whose life depends the success of the Grand Trunk Canal will exist as it now is even for a quarter of a century, not to speak of the long period for which you are bargaining at present? Of course it will be asked, what then can be done to maintain the steamer route to Eastern Bengal? Well, Sir, all that can be said in reply is to maintain the present steamer route as best you can; if you cannot maintain it, if you cannot find out a better connecting link in the Sundarbans between the Channel Creek and the Malta system, provide a still water canal somewhere in that part of the country if you like or, if you choose, widen the existing Circular and

Eastern Canal. I asked Mr. Addams-Williams why it was not feasible to widen the existing Circular canal. He said in reply that the Government policy was that there should be separate routes for steamers and country-boats. Well, if that be the Government policy, I am sure that the Government policy will be respected more in its breach than in its observance, so far as the river part of the Grand Trunk Canal is concerned. For beyond the locked area, from Malancha eastward, the same rivers, which now form the main channels for boat traffic in the Circular and Eastern canay system, will be utilized for steamer route. But if after all it turns out that a steamer route cannot be maintained through freaks of nature, then in that case what else can be done but to depend on railways up to Khulna. The Government expert might say that it would cost as much as the Grand Trunk Canal. Well, even if that be so, you will be building on *terra firma* which is certainly a wiser course than incurring huge expenditure on a canal the success of which depends on the life of the rivers outside the locked area and as such no human being can assure.

That the Government expert's exposition of the case for the Grand Trunk Canal has not satisfied even those whose mentality the Government had never any reason to doubt will be seen if I am permitted to quote the following observations from the *Englishman* of the 23rd February, 1923:—

Feasible as this may sound, however, there are certain obvious guarantees which must be given before it is decided to construct a canal and not a railway. The process of siltation is proceeding so rapidly, for example, that even if there are good open rivers available to day, who is able to say whether the same waterways may not share the fate that is now overtaking the Do-Agra river—2,750 feet wide in 1897, but dwindled down to a mere stream of 200 feet across at the present day and this after repeated dredgings? In capital works of this type it is necessary to look far ahead into the future. Will the Pussur river and the other "good open rivers" remain immune for another twenty or thirty years and longer, or will they also be strangled by silt deposits? That is a question which the Irrigation Department has to answer satisfactorily. It would not be wisdom to construct a canal otherwise. The canal may be dug and utilized for, say, ten years, when it may be found that the "good open rivers" are showing signs of weakness with sinister sandbanks appearing where the waters now run deep. Then it would be necessary to dig the canal further towards the east and finally in this way the still water channel might have to be cut all the distance to Khulna itself. Were this to happen, would it still be found that the canal had cost only half as much as the duplication of the railway line to Khulna? Clearly more information is wanted on this point as also upon the consequences of canal embankments stretching directly across the natural slope of the land which is from north to south and cutting off the headwaters of the Matla river—the only outlet of the Bidyadhari river carrying away the drainage of Calcutta and suburbs. If the Matla river is killed the Bidyadhari too will speedily cease to exist and all the evils which have lately menaced a great and growing city will be let loose.

These are the observations of the *Englishman* and in view of these doubts I think the Government would be well advised to give up the Grand Trunk Canal at any rate not to undertake the project hastily at present. I do not propose to enter into a detailed examination of the revised estimate prepared by Mr. Addams-Williams, until that revised estimate has

been circulated to us; but I only wish to make a few general observations. In March, 1921, when this question was raised in this Council, the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Irrigation Department said that upon revision the estimate was likely to go up, that is, likely to exceed the sanctioned amount of Rs. 309 lakhs because of the high rate of exchange, of the increased land value and of other things. Now we see that Mr. Addams-Williams has drawn up a scheme and prepared a revised estimate which contrary to the expectations of the Hon'ble the Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation, reduces the cost by about Rs. 30 lakhs. I think, therefore, in view of such unexpected results, there is sufficient ground for scrutiny. The next general observation I should like to make is as regards Mr. Addams-Williams' estimate of return of 13½ per cent So far as I know there is not a single canal in the river-borne trade route of Bengal which yields such a high percentage. Even the Madaripur Bhil route through which the whole trade between Calcutta and Eastern Bengal is carried on does not yield more than 3 per cent. In view of these facts we may well doubt whether the Grand Trunk Canal scheme will at all fetch anything like 13 per cent.

Rai JOGENDRA CHUNDER GHOSE Bahadur: It is a matter of great regret that Mr. Pugh who voiced the objection to this scheme on behalf of the non-official European community is not here to-day. Sir, when this scheme was first initiated in the Council of Sir Andrew Fraser I was there, and I was fascinated with the grandeur of the scheme. At that time however, crores were not a question of much moment to us. But nowadays even a rupee is of very great moment to us. Calcutta is a land-locked city and the round-about route to East Bengal by the Sundarbans is very expensive. This scheme would long have been carried into effect but for the action of Mr. Addams-Williams. Mr. Lees initiated the scheme in 1896. It would have been carried out by this time but for Mr. Addams-Williams, who said that that he could make a better scheme; but 17 years have passed away since then, and, in the meantime, the route to Eastern Bengal has become very much worse than it was. Mr. Addams-Williams now says that if we take the route south it will not be good because the Matla is a dying river. I know the route very well. It will be of great benefit to me if this scheme is given effect to. It passes by my properties. I have been through it on steamers—not on the company's steamers—several—times and I know the route thoroughly. Mr. Addams-Williams says that the Matla river and the Bidyadhari river will silt up. The route proposed by him passes through a river which no steam-boat can pass. Unless it is dredged it will not serve our purpose. Then it goes further east and from what I know of it, I believe it requires dredging. Is there any less chance of these rivers silting up than the great Matla river silting up? It requires a great deal of credulity on our part to believe that and even Mr. Addams-Williams cannot make us believe that. I say all this because we are

asked to spend Rs. 3 crores from our depleted finances. Are we quite sure that the dredged rivers will not silt up again? Can Mr. Addams-Williams give us an undertaking that this route will never silt up earlier than the Matla river as he says? If he can give us this guarantee then I shall be the first man to vote for the scheme and the grant. But I do not think he can give us this guarantee. The question now is this: Can Bengal afford to take this great liability of Rs. 3 crores? I ask the members here: "Will they be a party to burdening the country with this huge expenditure? How would they face their constituents in that case?" Our successors will not be able to get rid of this crushing burden. I therefore consider that it is the bounden duty of the Council to oppose this grant.

The following motion standing in the name of Shah Syed Emdadul Haq was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand for Rs. 1,38,000 for establishment under the head '55.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works Unproductive' be reduced by Rs. 70,000."

Dr. PRAMATHANATH BANERJEA: I move that the demand for Rs. 7,89,000 under the head "55 Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, etc.," be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000.

Several reasons have been advanced in favour of the grant for the Grand Trunk Canal Scheme. One reason is that the Sundarbans route is silting up very fast and will soon become impassable. The second is that it will mean a saving of distance and be convenient to traders. Third, that it will be profitable to the public exchequer. I will say only a few words about each of these grounds. In the first place, it is true that there is a channel in the Sundarbans route which is silting up, but there are many channels which are likely to silt up in the projected area. As a matter of fact, it is said, by people who know, that the Sundarbans route will deteriorate much sooner than the present steamer route. As regards the second point, it is the belief of the people that while the new route will be of advantage to the foreign carrying companies, it will become disastrous to the country-boat traffic. I come now to the third ground, namely, the financial advantages of the scheme. It is the opinion of well-informed people that the expenditure on the Grand Trunk Canal Scheme has been greatly underestimated. It is extremely doubtful whether there will be any profit at all. Our experience forbids us to place any faith on the hopes held out by official experts, and I am not prepared to accept their view without question. There are other experts—non-official experts—who take quite a different view of the matter. While the profit is thus problematical the cost of the scheme is real. The estimated expenditure is large and it is quite possible that the estimate will be exceeded. And if this scheme proves a failure, it would entail a huge burden on the shoulders of our people at a time of financial

stringency like this. I urge that the scheme should not be proceeded with.

I desire to point out in this connection that on the previous occasions the opinion of public bodies was invited, but it has not been done in the present case. There are two other questions which should also be considered carefully, namely, whether there is the slightest risk to the river Bhagarathi, and whether the possible obstruction to the natural drainage system which is now apprehended is real. My motion also includes another item, namely, the establishment under unproductive portion of this department. I think this expenditure ought to be considerably curtailed, but I will not press this point.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: The amount of powder and shot that has been spent today on a side-issue of the Grand Trunk Canal Scheme proves conclusively the elasticity of the power of speech of the different members who have spoken to-day. I certainly would not have had the patience to rise time after time to speak on a subject which has not come up officially before the Legislative Council. We have asked for a grant of Rs. 45,000 or rather Rs. 89,000, in which Rs. 45,000 is included and provides for the pay of the staff of the Grand Trunk Canal establishment and this is the amount which is being refused on the ground that the Grand Trunk Canal scheme is unnecessary, and that it is a failure. I challenge every member of the House who has spoken to say that it is so, for the simple reason that Government have not brought this scheme before the House for sanction as yet.

Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray has utilized the information and knowledge which he gathered as a member of the Irrigation Standing Committee, in which he saw a copy of Mr. Addams-Williams' revised estimate to criticize and to try to tear to bits Mr. Addams-Williams' proposals regarding the revised estimates for the Grand Trunk Canal Scheme. What I wish to say is that, in all fairness to Mr. Addams-Williams, it is not proper to call his scheme a huge engineering joke or anything like that, until the scheme has been examined by the Finance Department, until the scheme has been passed by the Government as a productive one, and until I come up in this Council with a proposal for a provision for this scheme. Government will not proceed with it, until ample opportunity has been given to this Council in the July session to discuss and either to throw out the Grand Trunk Canal Scheme once for all or to proceed with it, if it so desires. I say that it is inopportune to waste the time of this Council with a general criticism of estimates which are not placed before the public as yet, and which this House as a body have not yet had an opportunity of discussing or criticising. I sincerely hope for the sake of these speakers who have gone to the length of saying that Mr. Addams-Williams' scheme is a huge engineering joke, that the

tables will not be turned upon them when the time comes and it will not be said that all has been said now, is a tissue of nonsense. One cannot criticize a scheme before that scheme is before the House. What is the proposal? Supposing that that scheme is produced before the Council and the Council sends it back saying that it does not approve of it, it is not satisfied, and it wants further examination as has been proposed by several speakers—if the members want a further examination, does not commonsense tell us that the staff you have now got can be best utilized for the purpose. It does not matter if the guiding head be Mr Addams-Williams or anybody else whose services will be more appreciated by the Council—that is not the point. The point is that we have got a staff who have the whole scheme at their fingers' ends and if the scheme is to be re-examined and you get rid of this staff, now how is the department to get another staff together at a moment's notice? That is the point to be considered It would be a short-sighted policy to refuse the grant when I have promised times out of number that I shall bring the whole scheme before the Council and shall not do anything without first consulting it Is this the confidence the members place upon me after three years of the Reforms, and that when I ask them to believe me they say I have something up my sleeve? I tell you, Sir, in all honesty, that I will not proceed with the scheme until the scheme has been thoroughly examined by the Legislative Council Is that the mentality with which the Member in charge of a department is to be treated? Is that the mentality the Council should show to the expert officers of Government? Unless the scheme has been thoroughly examined by the Council, it would be very unwise on the part of the members to refuse this amount for the staff, as when the time comes, if the Grand Trunk Canal scheme is not proceeded with, then this amount will automatically cease and you will not have to retain the staff. What is the harm in allowing this to stand in the budget? I do not propose to go further into the merits of the question until it comes up before the House in July next.

I oppose the motions.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: May I offer a personal explanation? It has been said by the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan that the scheme will be placed in the hands of members before a demand is made in the Council. On the last occasion when a demand was made, the estimates were not made available to the members of the Council——

Mr. PRESIDENT: That is not a personal explanation; it is a reply to the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan. It does not explain anything that the Maharaja has said affecting you.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: He said it was unfair on my part; I say it was absolutely unfair on his part——

Mr. PRESIDENT: That is not a personal explanation at all. It is what is known among schoolboys as *tu quoque*.

The motion of Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Addy, Babu Amulya Dhone.
Ahmed, Maulvi Azaharuddin.
Ali, Mr. Syed Nasim.
Arhamuddin, Maulvi Khandakar.
Banerjea, Dr. Pramathanath.
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan.
Bhattacharji, Babu Hem Chandra.
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan.
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Shah Muhammad.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath.
Chowdhury, Maulvi Fazlal Karim.
Das, Babu Bhishmadev.
Das Gupta, Rai Bahadur Nibaran Chandra.
De, Rai Bahadur Fanindralal.
Dess, Rai Bahadur Pyari Lal.
Dutta, Babu Indu Bhushan.
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Jogendra Chunder.
Haq, Shah Syed Emdadul.
Huq, Maulvi Ekramul.
Hussain, Maulvi Mahammed Madassur.
Karim, Maulvi Fazlal.
Khan, Maulvi Hamid-ud-din.
Mukhopadhaya, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar.
Ray, Rai Bahadur Upendra Lal.
Ray Choudhury, Raja Manmatha Nath.
Ray, Babu Jogendra Krishna.
Roy, Babu Jogendra Nath.
Roy, Mr. Bijoyprasad Singh.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Lalit Mohan Singh.
Roy, Raja Manilell Singh.

NOES.

Ahmed, Maulvi Rafi Uddin.
Ahmed, Maulvi Yakuinuddin.
Ahmad, Mr. M.
Azam, Khan Bahadur Khwaja Mohamed.
Birley, Mr. L.
Bose, Mr. S. M.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble the Nawab Saiyid. Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Choudhury, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Rahmatjan.
Crawford, Mr. T. C.
Das, Mr. S. R.
De, Mr. K. C.
Deare, Major-General S. H.
DeLisle, Mr. J. A.
Donald, the Hon'ble Mr. J.
Donovan, Mr. J. T.
Emerson, Mr. T.
Farequi, Mr. K. O. M.
Goode, Mr. S. W.
Hornell, Mr. W. W.
Huntingford, Mr. C. T.
Janah, Babu Sarat Chandra.
Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the Hon'ble the.
Marr, Mr. A.
McAlpin, Mr. M. C.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C.
Mukerji, Mr. S. C.
Philip, Mr. J. Y.
Raheem, Mr. Abdur.
Rahim, the Hon'ble Sir Abd-ur-.
Robertson, Mr. F. W.
Roy, Mr. C. N.
Roy, Mr. J. N.
Stephenson, the Hon'ble Mr. H. L.
Stuart-Williams, Mr. S. C.
Suhrawardy, Dr. Hassan.
Villiers, Mr. F. E. E.

The Ayes being 31 and the Noes 36, the motion was lost.

The motion of Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea was then put and lost.

The original demand under the head "55.—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation and Drainage Works" was then put and agreed to.

LOANS AND ADVANCES.

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, FINANCE DEPARTMENT (Mr. A. Marr): On behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Donald I move that a sum of Rs. 37,84,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "Loans and Advances."

The following motion standing in the name of Babu Nalini Nath Roy was, in the absence of the member, deemed to be withdrawn:—

"That the demand of Rs. 40,000 for loan to Raniganj municipality for water-supply be refused."

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I move that the demand of Rs. 10,600 under the head "Loans and Advances" for loan to the Sherpur municipality for constructing schools building be refused.

There are two parties in the locality and one party came and saw me and said that the loan was objectionable and so I gave notice of the amendment. Subsequently the other side came and saw me. I understand that a deputation from both sides waited on the Hon'ble the Minister. I again hear that the objection is not altogether unreasonable. Therefore, I simply move this in order to hear what the Hon'ble the Minister has to say to it.

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea): The matter was carefully gone into by Government. I received a deputation from both sides. When two parties are fighting over a question it is the duty of the Government to hold the balance evenly. The object of granting this loan is the promotion of local improvement. The municipality of Sherpur, by a practically unanimous vote, came to the conclusion that they should have an office building of their own, that they should excavate a tank, reclaim a swamp, and build another ward in the hospital. It seemed to us to be an attempt to improve things, and we thought that they should be encouraged. The Municipality has been able to raise local subscriptions to the extent of Rs. 6,000 from two philanthropic local gentlemen, and the municipality itself has contributed Rs. 2,000. Out of the sum total of Rs. 18,000, Rs. 8,000 has been locally raised and in such a case it is proper that a loan should be advanced. After this, I hope the hon'ble member will withdraw his amendment.

The motion was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The original demand under the head "Loans and Advances" was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble the MAHARAJADHIRAJA BAHADUR of BURDWAN: In the absence of the Hon'ble the Finance Member I have been asked to make a statement to the House. When the final estimate of the Budget was introduced the deficit was Rs. 4,82,000, but the cuts made by the departments and also by the Council and accepted by the Government amount to Rs. 7,87,000. Therefore, at the present moment, we have a surplus of Rs. 3,55,000. (Applause.)

Prorogation.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Gentlemen, I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor to announce that the Council stands prorogued.

The members then dispersed.

B. G. Press—6-6-1923—3846J—1,606—A. F. A. and others.

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